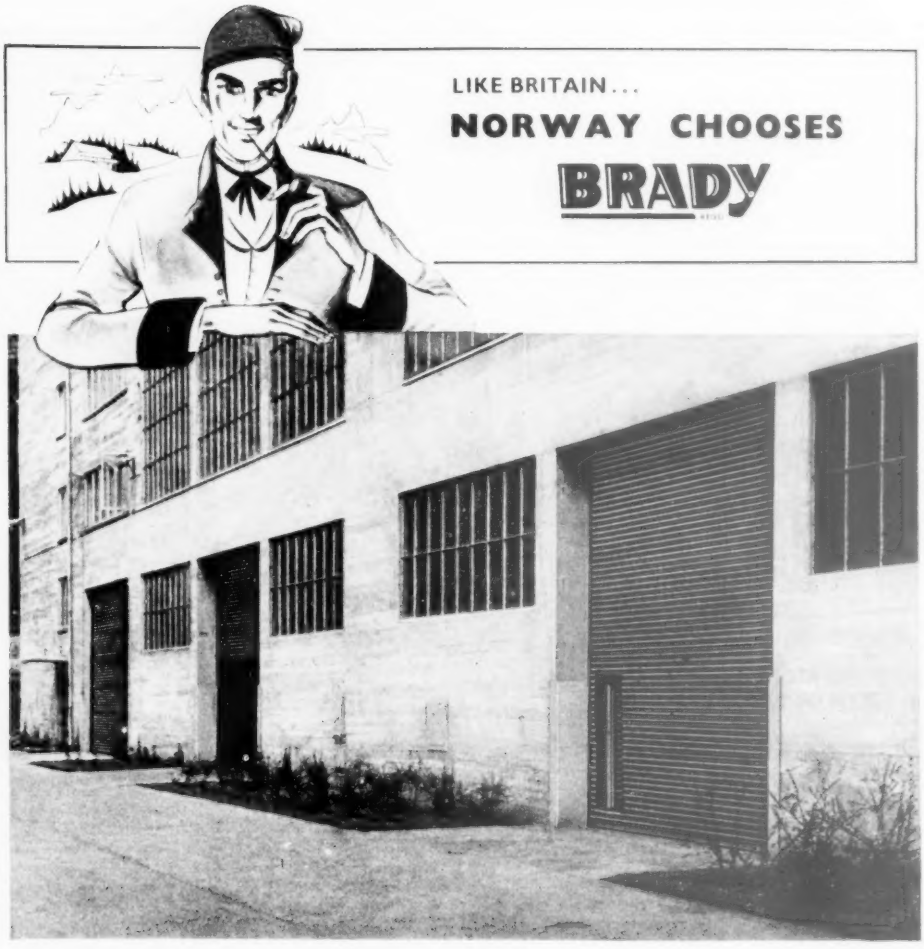
THE ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

- EDINBURGH—I
- LABORATORY AT ORSETT, ESSEX

JUNE 19, 1952 · VOL. 201 · NO. 4357 · ONE SHILLING WEEKLY



"Brady" is a by-word in most countries now. This installation of three gear-operated steel shutters, incorporating a wicket gate, was supplied to An. Thorbjornsen of Oslo, to give maximum clearance and accessibility at loading points. Whenever it's a question of moving or storing goods and vehicles — quickly, safely, economically — you'll find the Brady organisation has a straightforward answer.

We shutter the world

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Manufacturers of Brady Hand and Power Operated Lifts

It's a good job—it's ROBBIALAC



AT QUERNMORE SCHOOL, BROMLEY

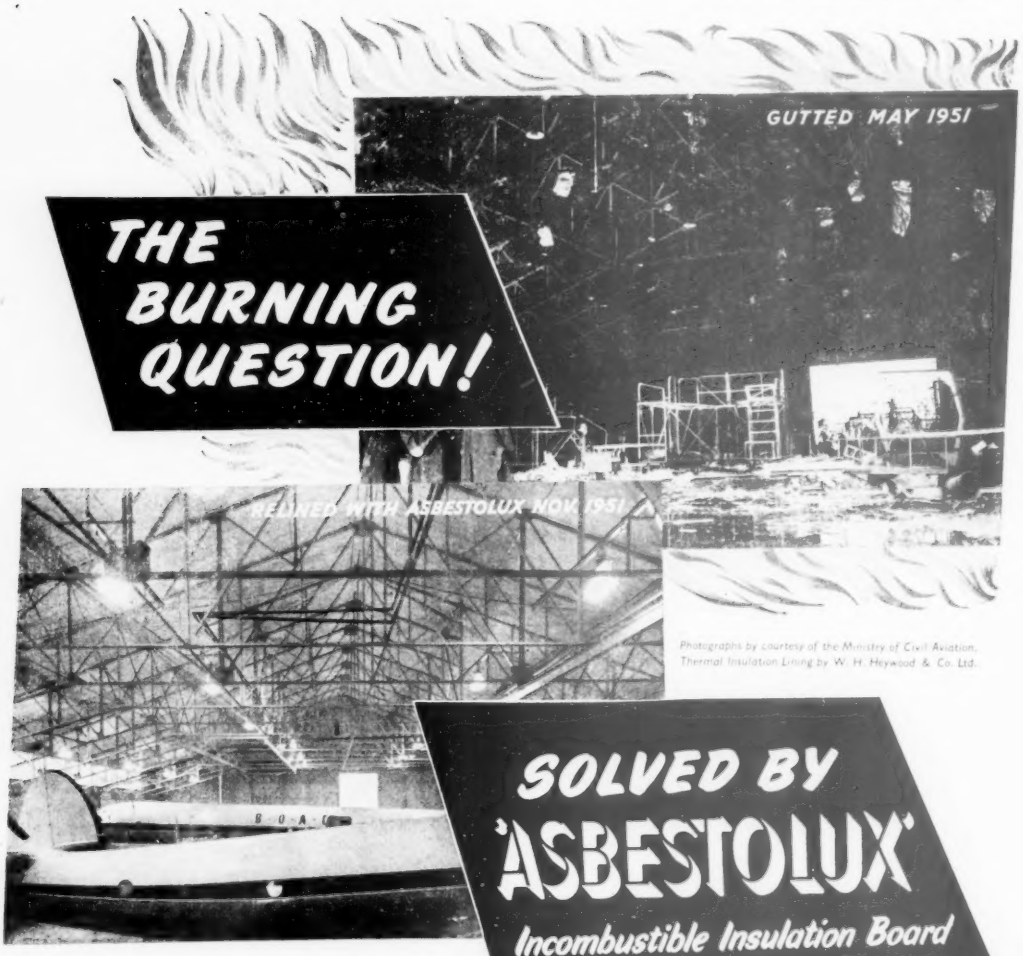
The fine Georgian buildings of Quernmore School, belonging to Bromley Corporation, provide a setting of character and charm for those studying there. In common with many educational establishments throughout the country, this school was decorated inside and outside with Robbialac Paints, which beautify and give maximum protection to the property.

Robbialac Paints were used, for both the interior and exterior decoration of Quernmore School, by the Contractors, Messrs. S. E. Wright, Bromley, Kent.

JENSON & NICHOLSON LTD

Makers of Robbialac Paints and Industrial Finishes

Jenson House, Carpenter's Road, Stratford, London, E.15.



Photographs by courtesy of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Thermal Insulation Lining by W. H. Heywood & Co. Ltd.

NO. 3 HANGAR AT LONDON AIRPORT was gutted by fire last year, and the top photograph was taken immediately after the fire was extinguished. As the lower illustration shows, it has now been re-lined with the incombustible insulation board, ASBESTOLUX, each 8′ x 2′ panel being fitted to Aluminium T's. The burning question has been answered.

'ASBESTOLUX' IS . . .

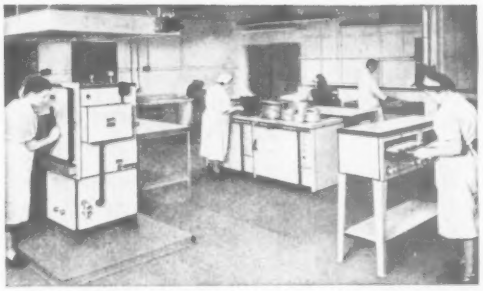
- ★ *Absolutely Fireproof.*
- ★ *Light and Strong.*
- ★ *Of high Thermal Insulation value.*
- ★ *Easily nailed and sawn.*
- ★ *Proof against warping, twisting or waving.*
- ★ *Unaffected by rot and termite.*
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Manufactured by

THE CAPE ASBESTOS CO. LTD.

DEPT. A.4
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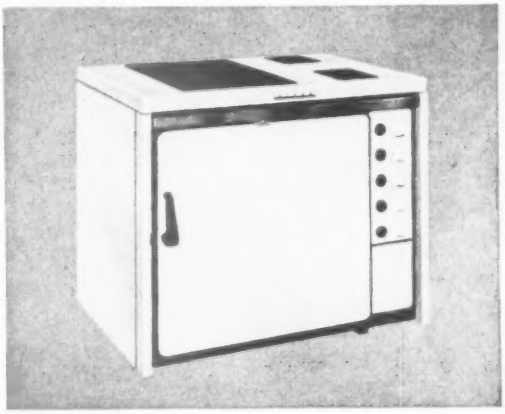
meals for Mersey men



This is the Mersey Cable works canteen kitchen, planned by Creda: and using Creda Heavy Duty Cooking equipment—a steamer on the left, a griller on the right, and two of the new-type Creda Unit Ranges in the middle, butted together

You can butt these ranges back to back or side to side, and never worry about spilt liquids or grease dropping between

- two sizes—8 cu. ft. and 4½ cu. ft.
- both sizes can be butted up to each other
- maximum boiling plate capacity
- concealed oven ventilation
- electrical components accessible from front
- oven doors open 150°
- silver-grey mottled V.E. exterior
- two-stage automatic oven control
- HOB HEIGHT ONLY 2ft. 10in.



Do you know about our Kitchen Planning Installation Service? Some of the finest kitchens in the country—including that shown—are designed by this team. Write for details to

reduce overheads and labour costs with **Creda**

heavy duty cooking equipment

made by the house of **Simplex**

Simplex Electric Co Ltd Oldbury Birmingham and Branches (electrical engineers for over 50 years) A TI COMPANY

"Murisan"

SPEEDS THE BRUSH



New Latex Emulsion Wall Paint Saves Time, Labour, Cost

Whilst Emulsion Paints were generally introduced into this country some years ago, we decided to withold "Murisan" until the teething troubles common to new products based upon new principles were overcome.

Now "Murisan" is offered with the confidence that it is far superior to any other paint of the kind. Think what it means in terms of time saved to know that within *one hour* the second coat can be applied; consider the advantages of a Flat Wall Paint which can be applied in the same way as a Water Paint, can be second coated in one hour, and provides a finish equal in appearance but superior to the durability of conventional Flat Oil Paints.

May we send you a brochure giving full details of this revolutionary new finish?

THE ADVANTAGES OF "MURISAN"

1 "Murisan" is odourless.

2 "Murisan" can be *second coated within one hour.*

3 "Murisan" can be applied with large wall brushes.

4 "Murisan" can be washed within 72 hours.

5 "Murisan" can be thinned with water.

6 "Murisan" is positively non-bleeding on bituminous surfaces.

7 "Murisan" is resistant to alkali.

Flat Finish: Interior and Exterior Grades also Eggshell Finish.

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BPL/D.10.

A plan for economy and speed of erection





THE WESSEX COTTAGE

THE WESSEX COTTAGE has been developed by Orlit to meet the need for an economical and well designed dwelling which could be erected quickly and with the minimum use of skilled labour. It is particularly suitable for rural areas.

A prototype cottage (illustrated above) has been built at the Orlit Factory at Colnbrook, within 18 miles of Charing Cross. A cordial invitation is extended to architects, local authorities etc. to make a visit of inspection.

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HILLE of London

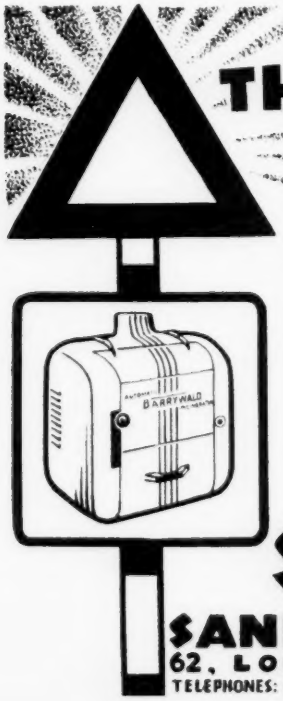
Hilles are steadily adding new pieces to their range of low-cost tax-free furniture. Construction and finish of all types is superb. The cabinet units are of related dimensions for grouping. Sliding doors can be supplied in various veneers or in black or grey Vitrolite. Stacking table and desk tops are in either veneer or plastics. Write for further details.



Designs by Robin Day

Hilles also carry out contract cabinet and seating work.

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THE BARRYWALD REGD.

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L3226D

GLASCRETE

● *Reinforced Concrete and Glass* ●

This view of the interior of the Avon Pumping Station at Ringwood illustrates the excellent lighting value obtained by the use of GLASCRETE Double Glazed Construction.

Design and construction by the late Philip G. G. Moon, M.Inst.C.E., F.C.S., and the Engineering Staff of the Bournemouth Gas & Water Co.



Technical details from:

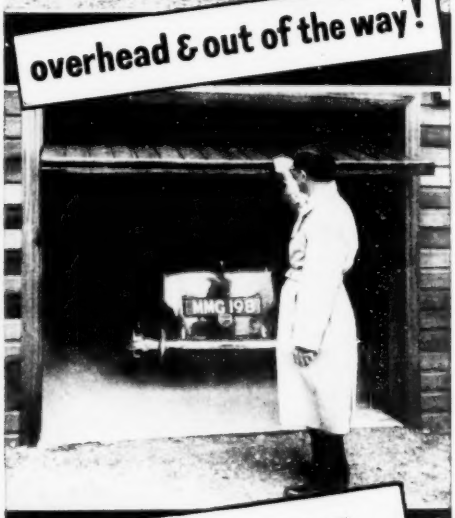
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Telephone: CENtral 1866 (1 lines)

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UP & OVER Garage Door Fitting

You can now buy this beautifully made mechanism which converts your old-fashioned garage door into the luxury "Up and Over" type at the amazingly low price of £10 . 6 . 2.

Send now for fully descriptive leaflet ABN/DF

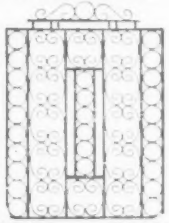
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GATES and RAILINGS

"BATH" B.2



Height 3' 5" Width 2' 11"

"DORKING" D.6



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Designed to cook for 6-8 persons, it is as efficient for casual cooking as for family-sized dinners. It can be supplied with a high-pressure boiler to give an abundance of hot water in bathroom and kitchen. The open fire door provides the luxury and comfort of an open fireplace. Amazingly easy to clean and to keep clean—there are no protruding parts, the oven doors have concealed hinges and recessed handles. The towel rail is chrome plated and there are NO oven flues to clean.

YOU CANNOT DO BETTER THAN SPECIFY ....

★ "Facts and Figures" Leaflet supplied on request from Dept. A.B.



The hub of production is the drawing office



Not many years ago the drawing office was generally considered a necessary evil, and was housed in unsuitable rooms grudingly maintained and scantily equipped.

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PLASTIC EMULSION PAINT

has stood the test of time

This decorative satin-like finish, now well established, is extensively used in a wide range of colours.

As one of the originators of this type of surface coating, we recommend "Charterplast" with the utmost confidence.

Write for literature and specification to the manufacturers :

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LABORATORY AT ORSETT

Illustrated in this issue

FOR FINA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS LTD.

ARCHITECTS:
HAMMETT & NORTON, A.A.R.I.B.A.



LABORATORY FITTINGS AND FLUSH DOORS *by*

R. CATTLE LTD

(Established 70 years)

Everitt Rd., Chase Rd., North Acton, N.W.10

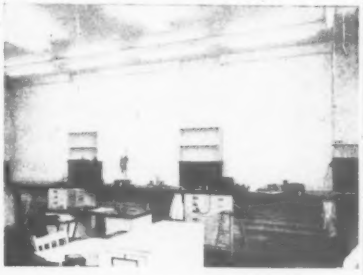
Telephone: ELGar 5411 (4 lines)

High-Class Joinery, Flush Doors and Precision Woodwork

Laboratory at ORSETT

Messrs. HAMMETT & NORTON Architects specified LEYMURA No2 QUALITY Emulsion Paint for the New Plaster and Cement Internal Surfaces with Leyland Laboratory ENAMELS on all the woodwork throughout the Building LEYLAC for External Decoration FOR THE Fina PETROLEUM PRODUCTS LIMITED

Our New White Dark Blind (100% light-tight) Also ask for details of our "Super-C" Dark Blind, and "Sunuminium" Flexible Aluminium Venetian Blind



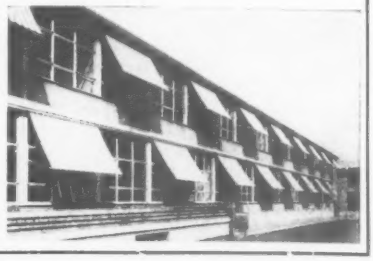
Also, the Dark Blinds and Sunblinds at Fina Petroleum, Orsett, were supplied by:—

AVERY'S (EST. 1834) LTD.

81 GT. PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W.1

(*Trained representatives will call upon request*)

STRONG SUNBLINDS and ROLLER BLINDS and PLEATED BLINDS (*write for details*)



★ BERBOARD ★

SCREENED WOOD FIBRE BOARD (Regd.)

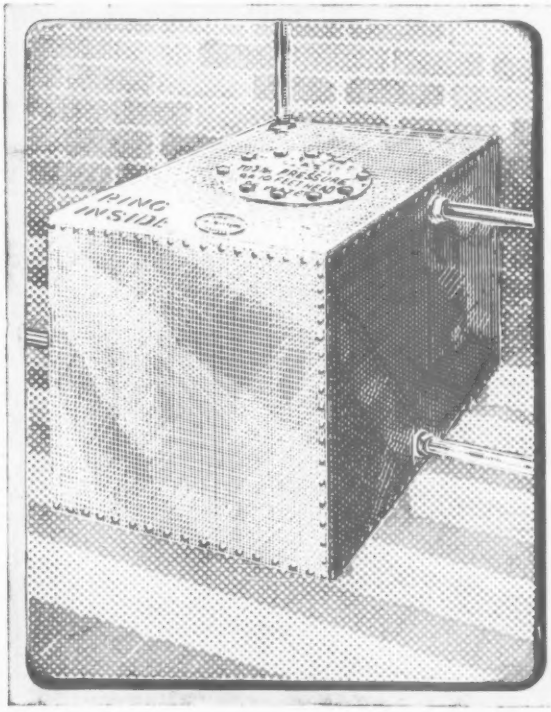
BERBOARD is made in two grades—**STANDARD** and **WATER REPELLENT** of high density. In three thicknesses ¼", ½", ¾". Size of board 8' × 4' and 9' × 4'.



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- VERMIN
- WORM
- MILDEW and
- FUNGI RESISTING

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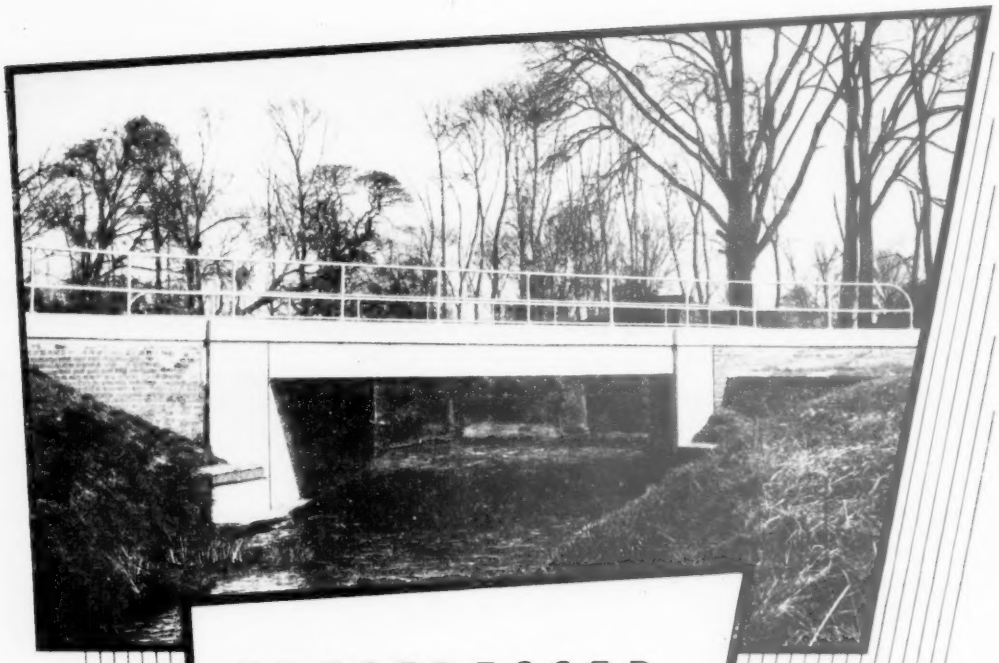
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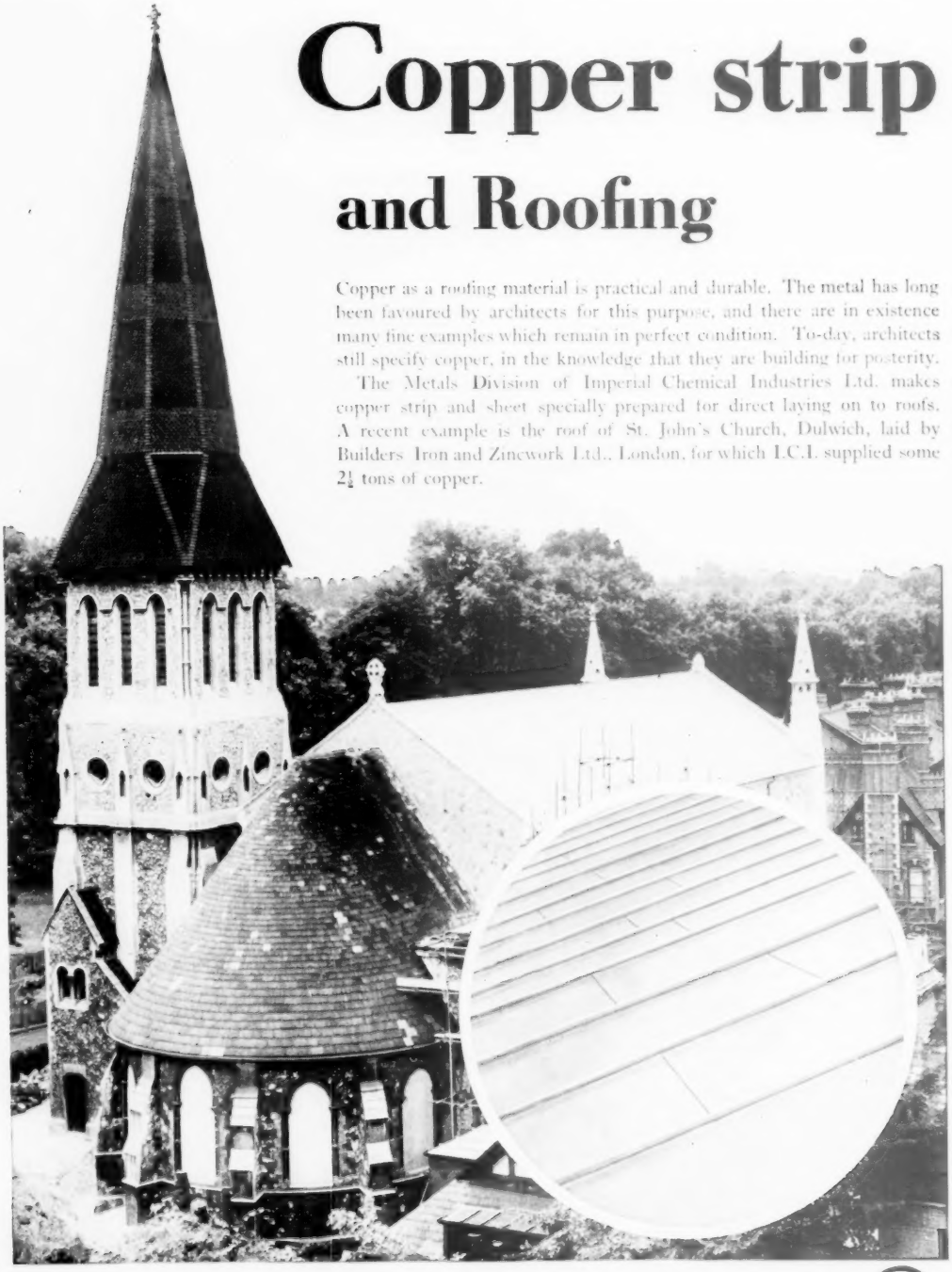
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The Metals Division of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. makes copper strip and sheet specially prepared for direct laying on to roofs. A recent example is the roof of St. John's Church, Dulwich, laid by Builders Iron and Zincwork Ltd., London, for which I.C.I. supplied some 2½ tons of copper.



IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD., LONDON, S.W.1

M.218



Photo: Courtesy of The Gas Council

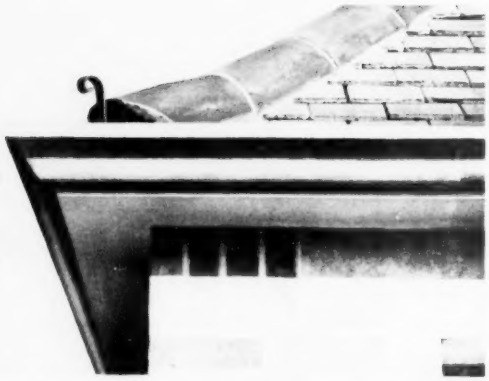
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Painting Gutters—Fascia—Soffit
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Acclaimed by Architects and the Trade as the finest advance in building construction. Our statements with regard to saving in cost are being confirmed every day by Quantity Surveyors. The actual amount varies and is dependent on the existing specification.
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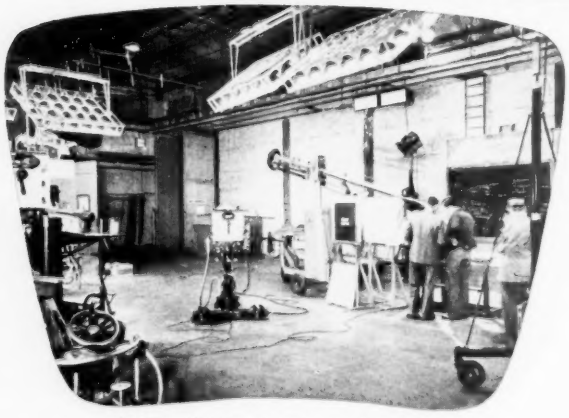
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J & B Mineral Wool Acoustic panelling installed at Lime Grove Television Studios (Photo by kind permission of B.B.C.)

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The Acoustic problems of sound recording and television studios have been solved by the highly versatile and efficient J & B Acoustic Panels illustrated in the photograph of Lime Grove television studios.
J & B Insulation consists of Mineral Wool, the finest barrier against unwanted noise. This remarkable product, with its flexibility and fireproof properties, is completely safe for operatives to handle.

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Great economy in fuel consumption in cinema heating plant can be effected by insulation of boilers, piping and storage tanks, etc. Further, a steady all-year-round temperature can be assured by insulation of auditoria roofs with further substantial saving in fuel costs. **Up to 80% fuel economy can be obtained.**
Builders of Cinemas should specify J & B Mineral Wool Insulation. Managements of existing Cinemas are recommended to consult our Advisory Bureau to assist them in tackling their fuel economy problems by adequate insulation to ensure A.1 comfort for their patrons.

J&B

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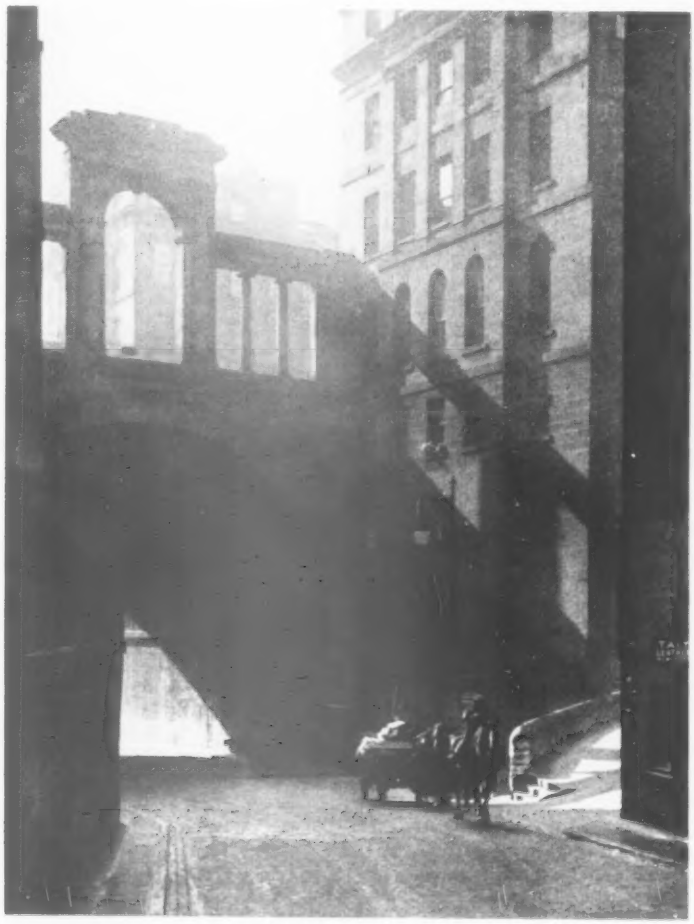
THE ARCHITECT & BUILDING NEWS

June 19, 1952

The "Architect and Building News" incorporates the "Architect," founded in 1869, and the "Building News," founded in 1854. The annual subscription, inland and overseas, is £2 15s. 0d. post paid: U.S.A. and Canada $9.00

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EDINBURGH

Low Carlton with the Regent Bridge which links Princes Street with Carlton Hill



Restoration of Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh.
Architect : Ian Gordon Lindsay, A.R.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

BRITISH ARCHITECTS' CONFERENCE, EDINBURGH JUNE 25-28

THE Headquarters of the 1952 Conference is at the Assembly Rooms, George St. During the Conference there will be an Exhibition illustrating current thought in Scottish Architecture.

The President of the Conference is Mr. A. Graham Henderson, A.R.S.A., P.R.I.B.A. Vice Presidents: The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, The Rt. Hon. James Miller; The Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, Sir Edward Appleton, F.R.S., Hon.A.R.I.B.A.; The President of the R.I.A.S., Lt.-Col. Alexander Cullen, O.B.E., F.R.I.C.S., F.R.S.E., M.T.P.I., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.; The President of the Edinburgh A.A., Mr. W. H. Kininmonth, A.R.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

OUTLINE OF PROGRAMME

June 25. 8.30-11 *p.m.*
Informal Reception at the Assembly Rooms.
June 26. 10.15 *a.m.*-12.15 *p.m.*
Inaugural Meeting at the Assembly Rooms. Reception by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh. Address by the P.R.I.B.A. Paper on "Scottish Housing, Past and Present," by Mr. J. Steel-Maitland, F.R.I.B.A.
3.0 *p.m.*-5.30 *p.m.*
Garden Party at Lauriston Castle.
7.30 *p.m.* Civic Reception and Dance at the Assembly Rooms.
June 27. 10.30 *a.m.*-12.30 *p.m.*
Paper on "The Architect's Contribution to Housing in 1952," by Mr. J. L. Womersley, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I.
Tours. Half-day tours: No. 1, Linlithgow and Houston; No. 2, North Berwick and Dunbar; No. 3, City of Edinburgh. Day tours: No. 5, Melrose and Dryburgh; No. 6, Stirling and Gleneagles; Nol 7, St. Andrews.
7.30 *p.m.*
Conference Dinner in the Assembly Rooms.
June 28
Visits: No. 1, Pentland Hills; No. 2, City of Edinburgh.

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

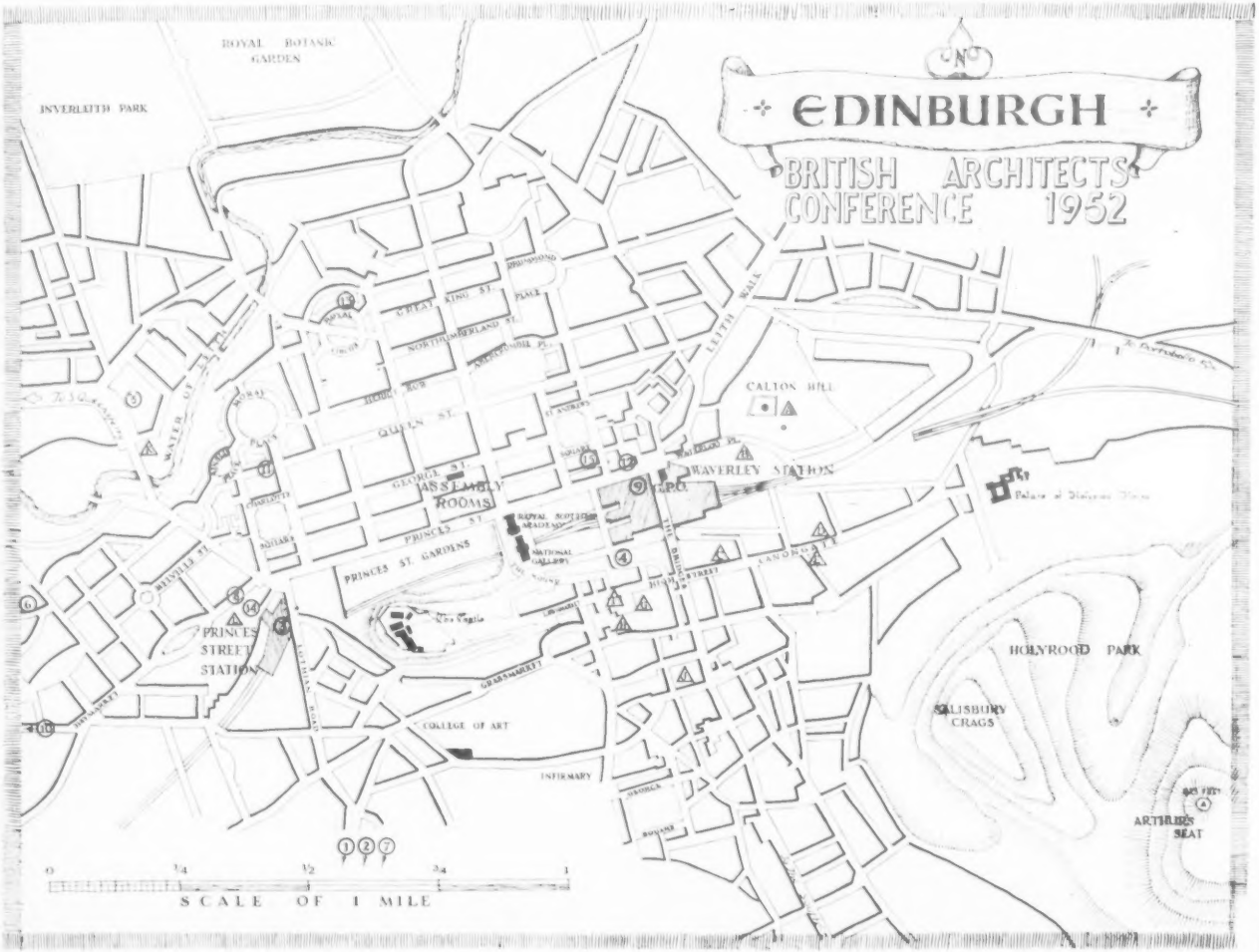
SYMPOSIUM ON CONCRETE STEEL ROOF CONSTRUCTION

The Cement and Concrete Association is arranging a three-day symposium on this subject to be held at the R.I.B.A. and the Institution of Civil Engineers from July 2 to 4. The programme is divided into three parts each part occupying one day, the first to be held at the R.I.B.A. and the other at the I.C.E. The three parts deal with the problem from the architect's, engineer's and contractor's point of view respectively and most of the leading authorities on the subject in each category are to speak. It looks to be a most interesting course. While realizing the impossibility of dealing adequately with the subject in a shorter time, I do wonder whether the C. and C.A. is wise in promoting a three (or rather two-and-a-half) day course. Young men are unlikely to be able to obtain leave of absence for so long and practising architects could scarcely afford to spend such a period away from their offices. Once again the official architect is likely to be the only one who can attend. Not that I wish to be impolite to the official architect. I would like to suggest that future symposia should be spread over a period, but then I suppose that would favour the London dwellers. Attendance at the Symposium is free and anyone interested should apply to the C. and C.A., 52, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.

"TIME" AND AMERICANS

The renewal of subscriptions for American papers is not just a simple question of sending a cheque. It often involves the filling in of a simply monstrous form. I must admit to a weakness here for I rather like filling in forms provided I have nothing better to do. This state of affairs does not often occur so that I was recently refused a renewal of subscriptions to a well-known American archi-

[Continued on page 700



KEY

LOCATION OF HOTELS

1. BRAID HILLS HOTEL
2. BRUNTSFIELD HOTEL
3. CALEDONIAN HOTEL
4. COCKBURN HOTEL
5. DEAN HOTEL
6. GREEN'S HOTEL
7. IONA PRIVATE HOTEL
8. MAITLAND HOTEL
9. NORTH BRITISH HOTEL
10. PIRIES HOTEL
11. QUEEN'S HOTEL
12. ROYAL BRITISH HOTEL
13. ROYAL CIRCUS HOTEL
14. RUTLAND HOTEL
15. ST. ANDREW HOTEL

PLACES OF INTEREST

A. OBSERVATORY
B. ST. ANDREWS HOUSE
C. JOHN KNOX'S HOUSE
D. TOLBOOTH
E. MORAY HOUSE
F. ST. GILES CATHEDRAL
G. PARLIAMENT HOUSE
H. LAW COURTS
J. UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
K. DEAN BRIDGE
L. R.I.A.S. and E.A.A. PREMISES



HOWARD MORLEY ROBERTSON, M.C., A.R.A., S.A.D.G., Hon.A.I.A., F.R.I.B.A.

IT was announced on June 17 that Mr. Howard Robertson had been elected President of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He takes office on July 1 and is the first President whose wife is also an architect. He was a Vice-President of the R.I.B.A. from 1938-1940.

Mr. Robertson was born in Salt Lake City in 1888. He studied at the Architectural Association, London, and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris, where he obtained his diploma in 1913. As a young architect he worked in offices in Boston and New York. He became a Fellow of the Royal Institute in 1925.

He served with distinction in France from 1915 to 1919 and was decorated with the Military Cross and was made a Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur.

In 1919 he joined the staff of the Architectural Association, becoming Principal in 1920, and Director of Education from 1929-1935.

In 1928, in partnership with Mr. J. Murray Easton, and again in 1936 with the late Mr. E. Stanley Hall and Mr. J. Murray Easton, his firm was awarded the R.I.B.A. London Architecture Bronze Medal, and in 1937 the Essex, Cambridge & Hertfordshire Allied Society made a similar award to the firm. In 1937 Mr. Robertson was awarded the Godwin Wimperis Bursary for his report on Continental Schools. Mr. Robertson has a wide knowledge of European architecture.

In 1932 Mr. Easton and Mr. Robertson went into partnership with Mr. Stanley Hall who was President of the R.I.B.A. from 1939 until his death in 1940. It is interesting to note, therefore, that two presidents of the R.I.B.A. have come from the same firm.

During the 'thirties the firm was active in the building of hospitals and in modernizing several leading London hotels, and designing British Government Pavilions in International Exhibitions.

Mr. Robertson was assessor to the Turkish Government for the Turkish Parliament Buildings competition, and technical adviser to the General Secretary of the League of Nations for the completion of the Palace of Nations at Geneva.

At the commencement of the last war he designed for H.M. Government the first standard hostels, and was responsible for much of the layout of canteen and welfare sections of industrial hostels and of hostels and clubs for the Merchant Navy.

In 1946 Mr. Robertson spent some weeks in America doing research work on hospitals, and later was the British representative on the international Board of Design chosen to advise on the plans for the United Nations Organisation Headquarters in New York.

Mr. Robertson was President of the Architectural Association in 1947—its centenary year—and in 1949 received public recognition for his work as an architect by being awarded the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture. Also in 1949 he was elected an Associate Member of the Royal Academy.

In the last few years he has been responsible for designing the interiors for three large liners of the New Zealand Shipping Company.

Mr. Robertson has recently returned from France where he has acted as the British Consultant advising on the new U.N.E.S.C.O. building in Paris.

Mr. Robertson is the author of the following works: "Principles of Architectural Composition" (1924): "Architecture Explained" (1926): "Modern Architectural Design" (1932). His last book was "Architecture Arising" (1944). He has also broadcast on a number of occasions on architectural and other matters.

Continued from page 698]

tectural paper because not having completed a questionnaire I could not be classified and therefore could not continue to receive the paper. Now you might think that classification was quite a simple thing and the fact that I was an architect pigeonholed me sufficiently for all general purposes. This is not so.

The whole thing has been brought to a head as far as I am concerned by the arrival of a four-page form from *Time* which contains 35 numbered questions and wants to know everything about me from my age and sex to whether I drink Cola drinks and how many servants I keep. It winds up with a request for a photograph of myself or my family. I have no doubt at all that the information which *Time* will collect as a result of this remarkable enquiry will keep machine operators busy for years but I doubt whether anyone else will benefit very much. I suppose some people will fill it in and those with a Ruth Draper's "Miss Nichols" will get her to, but I know one copy which is going to be left blank.

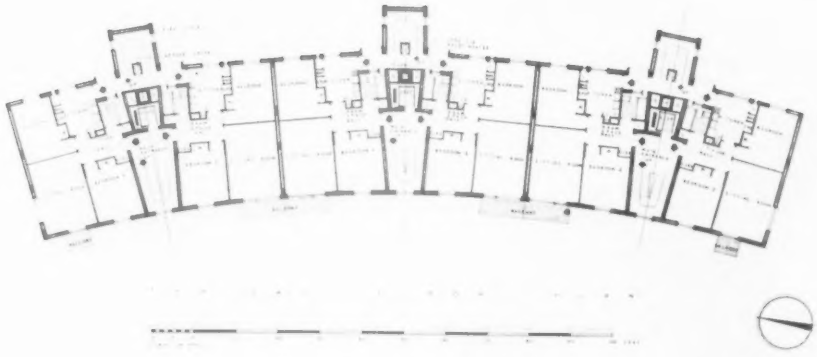
CORONATION SOUVENIRS

Souvenirs of the Festival of Britain were a flop and so I cannot help feeling pessimistic about the prospects for those for the coronation. A committee has been formed by the C.o.I.D. at the request of the B.o.T. to promote a high standard of design in coronation souvenirs. This committee is complementary to the coronation medal panel recently set up. Lists of approved souvenirs will be issued from time to time. It would be interesting to know what technique the committee will employ to coax manufacturers to produce the good designs which they so miserably failed to do last year. The C.o.I.D. will be pleased to give advice. The B.o.T. is prepared to grant licences for copper and zinc alloys for making souvenirs but the present severe restrictions on the use of nickel and nickel alloys will, however, remain. Now plastics manufacturers, here is a your chance.

THE GUILD OF MANY CRAFTS

As a result of a successful Festival year crafts exhibition held at Blakeney the Guild of Many Crafts has been formed there. The objects of the guild are, the encouragement of true craftsmanship, social intercourse between members and the holding of regular exhibitions to enable members to display and sell their work. A set of rules has been drawn up and these include those for Master, First Warden, Second Warden, Clerk, Treasurer, Chaplain, Craftsmen, Apprentice Craftsmen, and Associates. This year's exhibition of the work of the Guild will be held at the Blakeney Hotel for four weeks from July 5. Full particulars from the Clerk to the Guild of Many Crafts, Blakeney, Norfolk.





Model and plan of proposed seven-storey flats to be erected at Blackhall, near Edinburgh.
Architect : Leslie Grahame-Thomson, R.S.A. F.R.I.B.A.

THE BUILDERS' ARMS

A pub at Little Heath, near Potters Bar, is called the Builders' Arms. The landlord asked the L.M.B.A. whether he could use their arms as it happened that the pub was built in the same year that the L.M.B.A. was founded. The L.M.B.A. decided that under the terms of its grant of arms from the College of Arms it could not give permission but as city companies allowed hotels and inns to use their arms the L.M.B.A. could not very well object, more particularly as the only method of lodging an objection would be before the Earl Marshal's court which has not sat since 1740. The Builders' Arms is to have its new sign. And now what about The Architects' Arms?

ABNER

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Royal Patronage for the Royal Institute of British Architects and The Architectural Association

Her Majesty the Queen has been pleased to grant her Patronage to the Royal Institute of British Architects. In this she is continuing the custom of her predecessors since the time of Queen Victoria.

Her Majesty the Queen has also been graciously pleased to grant her Patronage to The Architectural Association.

R.I.A.S. Secretaries

In November last the R.I.A.S. suffered a sad loss by the sudden death, at the age of 47, of Mr. J. T. Middleton, W.S. who had been Secretary and Treasurer of the R.I.A.S. from 1936. Mr. Middleton will be long remembered, not only for his energy and zeal, which he gave freely for the Incorporation, but also as a man with a distinct personality of his own, and to those members who were fortunate to know him intimately, as a faithful friend. He served under eight presidents.

The Incorporation was fortunate in being able to secure the services of Mr. Kenneth MacRae, W.S., of Edinburgh, to fill the post of Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. MacRae was educated at Melville College, Edinburgh; Merton College, Oxford, and the University of Edinburgh. He graduated B.A. Oxon (Hon. Modern History) in 1931 and LL.B. Edin. in 1934. It was in that year that he was admitted to the Society of Writers to His Majesty's Signet.

Mr. MacRae was commissioned in the T.A. in 1938 and served throughout the war in the Royal Artillery. On demobilization he was granted the rank of Honorary Major and has been awarded the Territorial Decoration.

Building Wages

Mr. J. Ian Robertson, President of the N.F.B.T.E., speaking at the half-yearly meeting of the South-Western Federation of Building Trades Employers held at Bristol on June 11, said that following so soon after the Chancellor's warning that the granting of new wage claims would be bound to cause inflation, the decision of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers at their recent annual conference to ask for an increase in wages of 6d. per hour is very disturbing. "I can see no justification for the demand which, if met, would add more than £60 million to the annual wages bill of the industry and would, unless accompanied by greater production, increase the cost of building a municipal house by about £60, the equivalent in rent of 1s per week. There is already under consideration a claim for an extra week's paid holiday which would cost the industry between £6 and £7 million a year."

Dublin A.A.

At the annual general meeting of the Architectural Association of Ireland, held in Dublin, the following officers were elected: President, Mr. Alan Hope; vice-president, Mr. Sidney F. Maskell; secretaries, Messrs. William Reidy and Patrick Delany; treasurer, Mr. Harold Higginbotham; committee, Messrs J. P. Alcock, T. L. Cullinmore, B. Ellis, P. Lecler, T. B. Kelly, J. O'Gorman, F. Purcell and O. Richardson and Miss Sheila O'Grady.

Standard Metal Windows and Doors

The Minister of Works has authorized an increase of 3½ points on the List Prices of Metal Windows and Doors made in accordance with B.S.990 to cover the increase in the cost of steel in February last.

The British Metal Window Manufacturers' Association announces that the List Price of Metal Windows and Doors (paint finish) has accordingly been increased by 3½ points, from List plus 3½ per cent to List plus 7½ per cent as from Monday, June 16, but state that there will be no change in the List Price of Standard Metal Windows and Doors (rustproof finish) as the falls which have recently occurred or are anticipated in the replacement cost of zinc are expected to offset the previous increase in the cost of steel.

COMING EVENTS

Town Planning Institute.

June 26 at 6 p.m. General meeting, Professor W. A. Robson, Ph.D., LL.M., B.Sc. (Econ.), on "Town Planning as a Problem of Government," at Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Council for Visual Education.

June 27 at 2.15 p.m. Sir Philip Hendy will speak on "Art Galleries and Museums and Their Influence," at the Housing Centre, 13, Suffolk Street, Haymarket, S.W.1. Sir Patrick Abercrombie, M.A., LL.D., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., will preside.

CORRECTIONS

We are informed by Mr. James Gardner that he, and not Mr. Rowland Emett, was the designer of the Show Boat at Battersea Pleasure Gardens.

The address of Innoxa Laboratories is 1, Eden Street, N.W.1, and not 21, Watling St., E.C.4, as given in the last Information Digest.

In the diary of the P.R.I.B.A.'s visit to Canada and U.S.A. in last week's issue, it was stated that Mr. Grey Wornum's house in California was designed by Mr. Tivol. We now learn that the house was designed by Mr. Wornum and that Mr. Tivol was largely responsible for supervision of the work.

Ipswich Prototype Houses

A statement issued by the Eastern Federation of Building Trades Employers says that the London County Council will shortly be inviting tenders for houses whose design is based on that of the Federation's prototype three-bedroom semi-detached houses erected last year at Elmcroft Road, Ipswich. Despite the desire of the Federation to make its contribution to the problem of bringing down housing costs, other housing authorities are still prevented from making use of these designs if they wish since the living space is 17 square feet short of the Ministry's minimum of 320 square feet.

PARTNERSHIP DISSOLVED

Messrs. Johnson & Crabtree announce that their practice in partnership at 20, Priory Place, Doncaster and 8, Robert Adam St., London, has been dissolved by mutual consent, effective as from April 30, 1952.

Mr. H. A. Johnson, Mr. L. Bulmer and Mr. A. H. Wilson will continue to practice in partnership at 20, Priory Place, Doncaster, under the name of T. H. Johnson & Son.. Mr. William Crabtree will continue to practice under the name of William Crabtree, Architect and Town Planner, at 8, Robert Adam St., London, W.1.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The address of South-West London Regional Office of the Central Land Board and War Damage Commission is 246, Stockwell Road Brixton, S.W.9 (Telephone Brixton 7777), instead of Eden Street, Kingston-on-Thames. The new office is at the junction of Stockwell Road and Brixton Road.

CORRESPONDENCE

Coventry Cathedral

To the Editor of A. & B. N.

Sir,—As a new (student) architect, born, bred and trained in the traditions of English architecture, with a very keen appreciation, etc., etc., I can only say that the letter published last week, assaulting the latest scheme for Coventry Cathedral, has filled me, and many of my friends, with a feeling of disgust, loathing, utter contempt, etc.

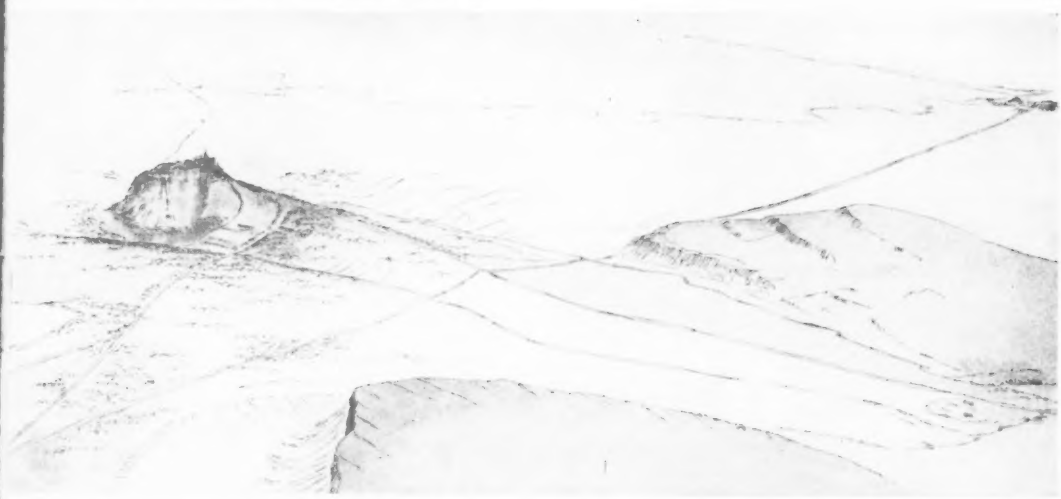
A monument of emotional garrulity, the letter makes no appeal to reason, contains no definition, makes no critical analysis, and fails to provide any basis for reasoned discussion.

The cost of bogus fan-vaulting apart, your correspondent fails to appreciate that the society for which Sir G. G. Scott and his contemporaries built is defunct, or nearly so, and that to follow them in spirit, and still worse in detail, constitutes spiritual suicide while of sound mind.

This is not to say that we cannot learn from the past. The responsibility of the architect is to study the lessons of history, that he may grasp the present and build for the future.

I am, etc.,

I. C. N. HOLMES-SIEDLE,
B.A. (Cantab).



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF EDINBURGH FROM THE S.W., SHOWING FORT, SUBURBS OF CASTLE HILL AND PRIMITIVE ROAD SYSTEM. *Reproduced from a drawing by Sir Frank Mears, P.P.R.S.A.*

THE CITY OF EDINBURGH

"EDINBURGH is a city famed the world over for its beauty—a city where through the ages the charm of nature has been strikingly reinforced by the efforts of the citizens."

This quotation from "Edinburgh, 1329-1929," aptly places the city, old and new, in its correct perspective in its relation to other cities, wherever they may be.

If the site upon which Edinburgh now stands had never been built upon—a site formed of abrupt hills from 400 to 800 feet high with steep escarpments on the west and tacking off to the east, surrounded by lochs and valleys, the distant view of the Forth, the open sea and the Perthshire hills in the distance—it would be as famous as any in Scotland.

It is safe to record, however, that once the hand of man begins to place his handiwork upon such an impressive work of nature, the beauty of the scene is lost for ever. This is not the case with old Edinburgh. No one, with any soul, can stand at the west end of Princes Street, looking towards the castle, which is the culmination of the mile-long ridge comprising old Edinburgh, and not be both inspired and uplifted by the impressive cliffs of masonry which man has added to nature's handiwork.

This cliff has always, from Norman times, been crowned by a fort; not, however, the structure of to-day. To the east, at a bow-shot distance, was a small suburb, with cultivated gardens stretching down the southern slope. It is not by accident that at one end of the ridge a castle should be built and at the other an abbey. This is in keeping with Norman tradition of defence on the one hand, religion on the other and the village between.

Here, then, were the two focal points from which the plan of Edinburgh sprang. Between the castle and the abbey what is now known as the Lawnmarket and High Street ran down the centre of the ridge, even in those days 100 feet wide in places. The market place, with its width of 100 feet, was in many respects similar to many village greens, being grass. The houses fronting the market place had long plots stretching down the slopes on either side. It is recorded that they had an average width of 25 feet and a length of 450 feet. An annual payment was paid to the King which is the origin of the Scots "Feu."

What of the buildings of this early Edinburgh? Sir Frank Mears describes them as being formed in wood with plaster or mud filling, each having its gable end to the street. Whitewash and bright colour were much in evidence—even the old St. Giles was whitewashed and the castle of that time was harled. "Thus," he states, "Auld Reekie was a very different town in its early days—castle, burgh and abbey all alike clean and shining, as new and practical in the eyes of their builders as any garden village of our time."

When a planned Edinburgh is mentioned it is to our discredit that we usually immediately think of the New Town area. Was not this first plan of the city equally as bold, its market place wider than George Street and the same length? Is not the punctuation of castle and abbey as good as that of Charlotte and St. Andrews Squares? Credit should be given where credit is due.

What was the population of Edinburgh at this period? This is always a difficult question, but from the answer a mental picture of the true size can be obtained. In the early Middle Ages, Sir Frank Mears states that the size of the community was very small. After making allowances for certain factors, he gives a total of around 2,000 persons. This may appear small, but when it is compared with some of our Small Burghs, many of which are well below this figure, a true idea of the size may be obtained.

Bearing in mind this population figure, you may ask when and why did the face of old Edinburgh change from being an open development to the tall, closely packed tenements that may still be seen even to-day in parts of the High Street and Cannongate.

The change, it would appear, began to take place when trade and industry began to displace agriculture as the main means of livelihood. Buildings which had been of a temporary nature began to be replaced by permanent buildings. In addition, many houses had timber galleries, similar to the Shambles at Chester, and the opportunity was taken by owners to build out in stone to the frontage line of these galleries, thereby reducing the width of the street by as much in some cases as 20 feet. John Knox's house is an example of this encroachment.

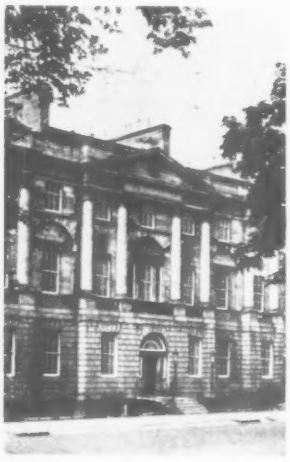
If, however, you turn aside from the High Street and



ST. GILES' STEEPLE



ARGYLE TOWER ARCHWAY, THE CASTLE



CHARLOTTE SQUARE, CENTRE FEATURE, N. SIDE

venture down a close you will see where overcrowding really took place, and that was on what had been formerly garden ground.

The overcrowding was intensified particularly on the upper part of the ridge, as was shown by Sir Frank Mears' excellent reconstruction of Edinburgh about 1450.

Matters were by no means improved by the walling of the town and the construction, to the north, of the Nor' Loch. I do not propose to describe the situation of this defence work, but to draw attention to the effect it had on the life of the burgh.

If you cannot build outwards and you must build, the only alternative is upwards. This wall has been described, therefore, as one of the main causes of a tradition which still lives with us to-day, namely, that of overcrowding and high buildings in this part of the City.

From the historical standpoint, it was after Edinburgh became the Capital of Scotland that buildings of architectural value were erected. Whilst no definite date can be given as to when it was accepted as the Capital, it may be given as around the middle of the fifteenth century.

It was, as far as the records show, from this date the City began to change in character. It began to act like a magnet to many classes, both high and low. Amongst those attracted were craftsmen, and we see the beginning of a period of fine stone buildings. It is a pity that many of these early buildings were so wantonly removed. We have still with us, however, the central tower and interior of St. Giles' Cathedral, the older Tower of Holyrood, the Great Hall of the Castle, and lesser fragments of this period.

At the same time, the new town houses of the gentry became a striking feature, contrasting in scale with the one- and two-storey houses which are still a characteristic of many old Scottish towns.

As already mentioned, the population was increasing rapidly and as many of the closes had been already built upon, if the population was to be housed within the city it could only be by building upwards.

This took place and the Scottish flat or tenement was born. Unfortunately, the stigma the old tenements left on the minds of the working class still lives to-day and is one of the causes it has been so difficult to persuade housing committees to build other than two-storey houses since the war.

These tenements, which ran back from the High Street, were often five to six storeys in height at the High Street and as the ground sloped steeply therefrom, rose to 10 or 12 storeys on the lower slopes. It is difficult to realize, with the primitive conditions as far as public services are concerned, how people existed, let alone lived, in the barrack-like blocks.

It must not be thought, however, that the Edinburgh of this time was composed of Castle, St. Giles, Holyrood, a few larger houses and a mass of tenements. Heriot's Hospital was erected in 1628 and Parliament House in 1632.

Until about 1765 Edinburgh remained a mediæval city, the New Town had not been born nor were there any visual signs that a new Edinburgh, which would be the envy of many cities, was about to be created.

Little do we realize the problems which faced the creators of the New Town. We may consider that our present-day efforts in building new towns are worthy of note, but it is safe to say that not one of these towns being built at the present time has a quarter of the obstacles to face as had the promotors of the New Edinburgh.

Consider the topography before the planners of those days. At the east the castle, at the west Holyrood; two fixed and immovable objects blocking expansion in either direction. To the south of the ridge was a small area of ground between the old town and the half-drained Burgh Loch. Where we now admire the famous Princes Street gardens was the Nor' Loch and, historians add, middens, slaughter houses and the like. In other words, the future of Edinburgh as far as expansion was concerned appeared gloomy and hopeless.

If we in this day and generation had been faced with the same problem would we have looked for an area of flat, high-quality agricultural land in the Lothians and built our New Town there? We might.

Not so with the citizens of Edinburgh. Formidable as the problem appeared, they visualized a new town to the north of the Royal Mile. The first essential was a bridge connecting the two ridges. It is interesting to note that it was not advertised as a bridge to open up the way for the new town. Oh no, this would undoubtedly have raised opposition which might have been of sufficient magnitude to prevent for some time at least the whole project. The bridge was to "improve the communications" with the important harbour of Leith.

In 1763 the North Bridge was begun and so the New Town in effect became a possibility.

In 1766 the Magistrates promoted a competition for plans for a New Town—a wise move. The competition was won by a young architect, John Craig.

As there have been and still are critics of Craig's plan, certain factors should be noted in fairness to the architect.

Craig was asked to plan a self-contained residential suburb, not a business centre as it has now become. He

was limited by existing properties at the west and east. It was considered that further expansion would not be necessary after this New Town had been built and therefore no access from the two squares to the east and west was considered necessary.

The New Town plan is so well known that little need be said except to record certain factors which may not be appreciated by some of its critics.

The principal street was to be George Street on the top of the ridge. This street was to be closed at either end by a square. The architecture surrounding these squares is not as conceived by Craig. Two churches were to be the terminating buildings closing the vista at both Charlotte Square and St. Andrews Square. Sir Laurence Dundas built a house, now the Royal Bank, where it was intended to build St. Andrews Church and the church designed by Robert Adam for Charlotte Square was not adhered to, and one of inferior design, so it is recorded, was erected.

The two other principal streets, designed as terraces, were Princes Street, facing south towards the castle and the Old Town, and Queen Street, facing north towards the Forth and the Kingdom of Fife.

It is interesting to note the shopping streets were to be confined to the streets running between and behind these three principal streets.

The result is creditable, bearing in mind that the site did not present the opportunities as did that for the first New Town, nor was the ground in one ownership. It is a pity, however, that advantage had not been taken of the magnificent views presented by the Dean Valley by the designer of Ainslie Place and Moray Place.

Not content with these two monumental schemes, a competition was advertised for the layout of the Carlton Hill area extending in a northerly direction towards Leith. Whether Playfair was a competitor or not, he was eventually commissioned to prepare a scheme for this area. Only parts, however, of the scheme were ever built. This was unfortunate, because, judging by the standard of design attained in the Royal Terrace, it would have been one of the most dignified street frontages in Britain.

No account of this period would be complete without a word on Carlton Hill and its approach. To-day we take the short length of road from the east end of Princes Street to Carlton Hill for granted. One has only to pause on Regent Bridge half-way between these two points to realize the problem that faced the promoters, caused by the deep glen which divided the two areas.

Robert Stevenson in 1815 prepared a scheme for this eastern approach. The architectural scheme was, however, prepared by Archibald Elliot. The treatment of the Regent



CHARLOTTE SQUARE, NORTH SIDE

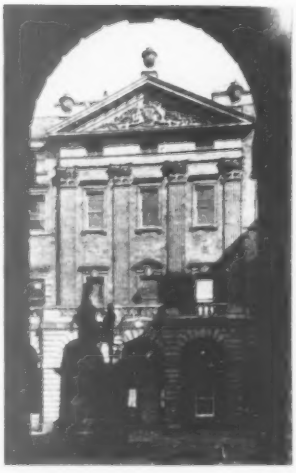


MORAY PLACE

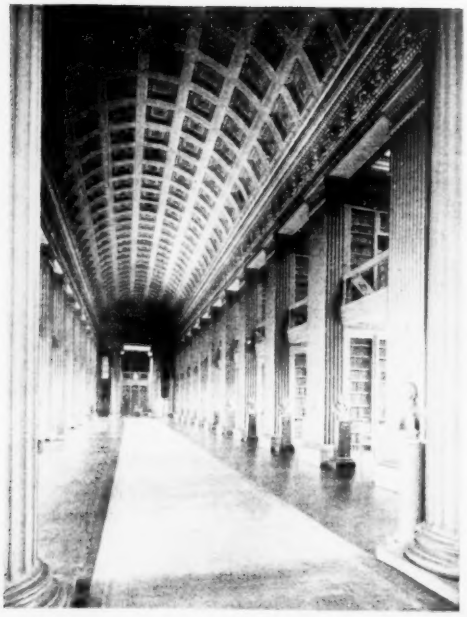
One has to admire the Town Council of that period, who in effect, obtained approval to a local planning act which laid down building lines, controlled heights, character of the buildings and stipulated that plans and elevations must be submitted to them for approval. They also earn our gratitude for their bold handling of a proposal to build on the south side of Princes Street. Houses were actually begun and an Act of Parliament had to be passed to prevent any further activities of this nature on this site. Congratulations to the Town Council. I wonder what they would have thought of a three-decker road scheme?

A walk from St. Andrews Square to Charlotte Square reveals the fact that the earlier houses appear to have been designed from a similar design, but the quality of the design improves as one moves west, culminating in the superb architecture of Charlotte Square. It is safe to say that in this square Robert Adam built a monument of civic architecture which cannot be equalled in Britain.

At the time of the conception of the New Town it was then thought that extensions would not be necessary: once, however, this northern area had been opened up there was nothing preventing further expansion to the north. Here, then, was the site for what might be termed the second New Town. The plan is somewhat similar to the first, with a wide street, Great King Street, running east and west with open spaces at either end.

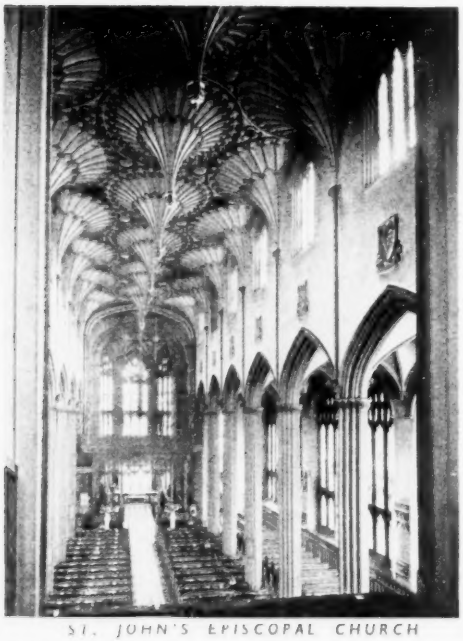


CITY CHAMBERS





EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY: LIBRARY AND MAIN ENTRANCE



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bridge so as to form a link between the high buildings on either side is well worthy of study. (*See frontispiece*)

It is not surprising that Carlton Hill, standing so prominently in line with Princes Street, should be looked upon as an ideal setting for national monuments. An observatory was followed by a Nelson monument and a further observatory and then what was to be the hill's crowning glory—a full-size reproduction of the Parthenon. After the first twelve pillars had been erected at a cost of one thousand pounds each, the project was abandoned. Because, however, of its classic simplicity, there is nothing displeasing to the eye of this unfinished monument.

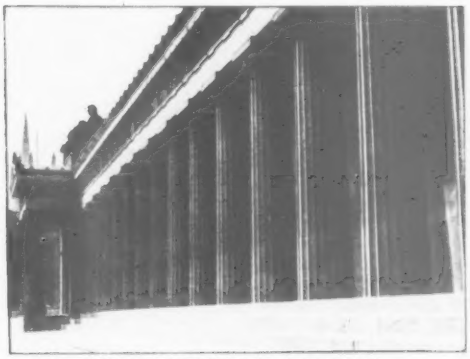
Two other monuments are worthy of study by architectural students: they are the two variations of the Choragic Monument of Lysicrates. There is also Hamilton's High School nestling under the southern crag of the hill.

From these notes it might appear that development was confined to street facade planning. This was not so, as many individual buildings and garden schemes testify. Amongst these are the University, the Register House by Adam, the Gallery on the Mound by Playfair and the Surgeon's Hall, to mention but a few.

Of the landscape schemes, the best known is Princes Street Gardens. It is a pity that the eastern end has been ruined by the intrusion of the railway. Many of the smaller squares and gardens which were planned along with the New Town show considerable thought, as they blend well with this formal architecture.

Whilst upon the subject of gardens, a word on why the Princes Street Gardens were divided by the Mound might not be out of place. It would appear that this area had been used as a tip for the earth excavated from the basements of the new houses in the New Town. The filling in of this area produced the idea of providing an additional link between the Old and New Towns. The Royal Institution (now the R.S.A. Gallery), which was erected on the Mound, was built on piles, owing to the artificial nature of the site.

From this account it might be thought that Edinburgh had no planning problems. This is by no means the case, but the problems have not arisen from the New Town of the City, but rather from the industrial development which followed, particularly the railways and canals. They caused not only a rapid deterioration in certain parts of the city, thereby leading to squalid areas, but what was equally unfortunate, they caused a flow of money which would have been



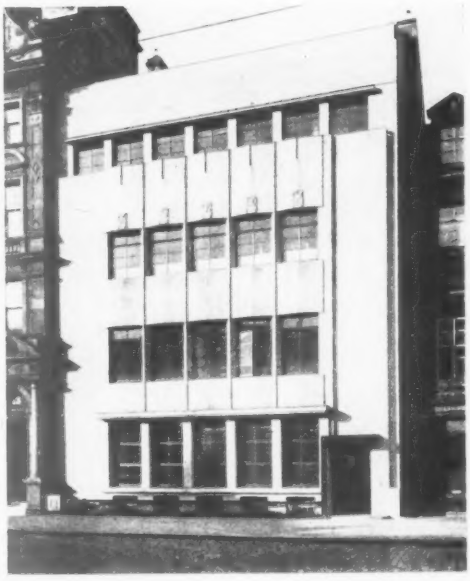
ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY



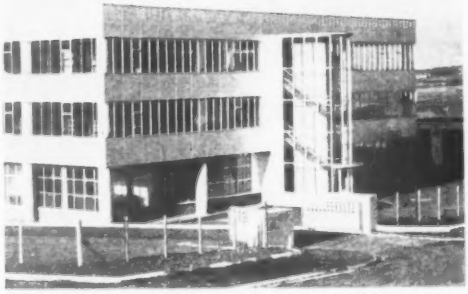
ST. ANDREWS HOUSE



DEAN VILLAGE



NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND



SIGHTHILL STATIONERY OFFICE



FOUNTAINBRIDGE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

used for further building to be diverted to their development.

The industrial expansion which followed produced the need for further expansion of the city and unfortunately little thought was given to planning or architecture. It was a period of villas, and they were aptly described by R. L. Stevenson in the following words: "They are not buildings; for you can scarcely say that a thing is built where every measurement is at clamant disproportion with its neighbours. They belong to no style of art."

This period also saw the byelaw streets, and the Scottish tenement, a heritage which will call for bold and drastic action by the authorities in the not far distant future.

Between the wars, however, whilst we may look upon the mass of bungalows and houses with horror, there were many buildings erected which demonstrate that the spirit of the builders of the New Town was still alive if it was allowed to find expression. The most notable building was without doubt the War Memorial by Lorimer. Whilst it is dangerous to make reference to individual buildings, the temporary offices of the National Bank of Scotland by Marwick are worthy of note, because of his successful break away from the traditional bank design. St. Andrews House by Tait was perhaps the last large public building to be built before the '39 War called a halt to building.

THE SALTIRE SOCIETY

NO article on Edinburgh would be complete without reference to the activities of the Saltire Society. The Society was founded in 1936, and within a year of its foundation it instituted an annual award for good housing design and, with a break during the war, has made altogether six awards, hoping thereby to encourage an interest in good design by enhancing the prestige of local authorities who care for these things and provoking those who appear indifferent.

The award is now officially recognized by St. Andrews House and has enabled the Society to exert a useful influence on a part of public policy which affects many people intimately. It is interesting to note that the Society's pioneer enterprise in this particular field was followed three years ago in England and Wales by the Ministry of Health. "Imitation is the sincerest form . . ."

The preservation of older architecture as an integral part of the Scottish tradition is a well-known concern of the Society but, as is well illustrated in a practical method by the award of the housing medal, their interest in modern architecture is just as active.

M. E. TAYLOR



NATIONAL MEMORIAL, CARLTON HILL



SCOTTISH NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL



GLADSTONE'S LAND BEFORE AND AFTER RESTORATION. IT IS OWNED BY THE NATIONAL TRUST AND LET TO THE SALTIRE SOCIETY

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS are made to the following:—Sir Frank Mears, for permission to reproduce his Bird's Eye Views of Edinburgh; The Saltire Society and the National Trust, for permission to use photographs of Gladstone's Land; Edinburgh Corporation, for permission to use views of Edinburgh from their publication "*Edinburgh, 1329-1929*"; T. P. Marwick & Son, for permission to use photographs of Temporary Premises, Head Office, National Bank of Scotland, George Street; McLagan & Cumming, for permission to use Low Carlton photograph; Stewart Cruden, F.S.A. (Scot.), for permission to use photographs of Dean Village; Ministry of Works, for permission to use photographs of Fountainbridge Telephone Exchange, and Sighthill Stationery Office; C. J. Cousland, for permission to use photographs from their collection; Paul Shillabeer, F.R.P.S., for permission to use views of Edinburgh.

A brief account of the post-war activities of the Ministry of Works in Edinburgh

NEW BUILDINGS

ONE of the outstanding new constructional works which the Ministry has undertaken is the recently completed *Store for Her Majesty's Stationery Office at Sighthill*. It was the first building in Europe, and perhaps in the world, erected on the prestressed concrete principle, estimated cost £200,000. The Ministry has also now completed a distinctive new *Telephone Exchange* at *Fountainbridge*, which is being formally opened by the Postmaster-General. Very important from the purely Scottish point of view is the new *National Library of Scotland* now being erected at George IV Bridge, estimated cost £540,000. The Ministry is exercising general supervision over this work, the Nominated Architect for which is Dr. Fairlie. When completed it will be a worthy and distinctive addition to the Government buildings in Edinburgh. The Ministry has also erected two large modern *Office Blocks*, one at *Sighthill*, and the other at *Saughton*. These new buildings are a striking illustration of the work which the Ministry has to do over the years in providing a variety of accommodation for the various Civil Departments, including office premises, specialized accommodation for the three Social Service Ministries, i.e., Ministry of Labour and National Service, Ministry of National Insurance, National Assistance Board, the Post Office, the four Scottish Departments and the various United Kingdom Departments. Other projects including additions to the Royal Scottish Museum and the provision of a Gallery of Modern Art are of a long-term nature and must wait until more urgent National needs have been satisfied.

The maintenance of the numerous buildings in Edinburgh, including their furnishing, heating and lighting, either Government owned or leased, from St. Andrew's House down to quite small premises, involves the Ministry in a considerable amount of work and a large bill each year.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS, PARKS AND PALACES

A traditional and lesser known but important function of the Ministry is the care and maintenance of historic buildings and the management of Royal Parks and Palaces. In Edinburgh, the two best-known historic buildings are, of course, Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyrood House.

Edinburgh Castle

The Ministry maintains a staff of 80 workmen and 20 warders for the maintenance of the Castle and attendance on visitors. Within the Castle is the *War Memorial*, which, although administered by a body of Trustees, is maintained by the Ministry, and the Scottish United Services Museum, which has Military, Naval and Air Force exhibits and was completely reorganized a few years ago, and where a completely new Royal Air Force room, with models of all the planes used by Scottish Air Force Units during the war, is to be opened during the summer. This Museum, which acts as a "mother" to the Regimental Museums in Scotland, has a high standing in Service and Museum circles.

The Palace of Holyrood House

The Ministry is responsible for the maintenance of the historic apartments associated with the Kings and Queens of Scotland from early times and also the State Apartments occupied by Royalty in residence. There is a staff of 20 warders.

Holyrood Park

Surrounding the Palace is *Holyrood Park* (including *Arthur's Seat*, *St. Margaret's Loch* and *Duddingston Loch*,) which is wholly maintained and patrolled by the Ministry. *St. Margaret's Loch* has been cleaned out and boating facilities for children with a paddling pool nearby have been provided. At *Duddingston Loch* there is a carefully preserved bird sanctuary and the Ministry employs bird watchers, especially during the hatching season. As part of a long-term scheme for the improvement of the amenities of *Holyrood Park*, the Ministry has now under construction tennis courts and bowling greens, and in later years hockey and additional football pitches with a new pavilion will be added as circumstances permit.

At the Canongate entrance to the Palace there is a group of picturesque 17th Century houses known as The Sanctuary, Abbey Strand, under the care of the Ministry. Edinburgh Corporation have assisted greatly in the improvement of the amenities by demolishing tenements and public houses, and the Ministry has laid out the garden attractively to set off to the fullest advantage this block of buildings, within which they organize a seasonal Ancient Monuments Exhibition.

Other historic buildings and ancient monuments within the city boundaries for which the Ministry is responsible are *Craigmillar Castle*, a prominent landmark in the south, *St. Triduan's Well* in the Restalrig district, and a 15th Century *Dovecot* at Corstorphine.

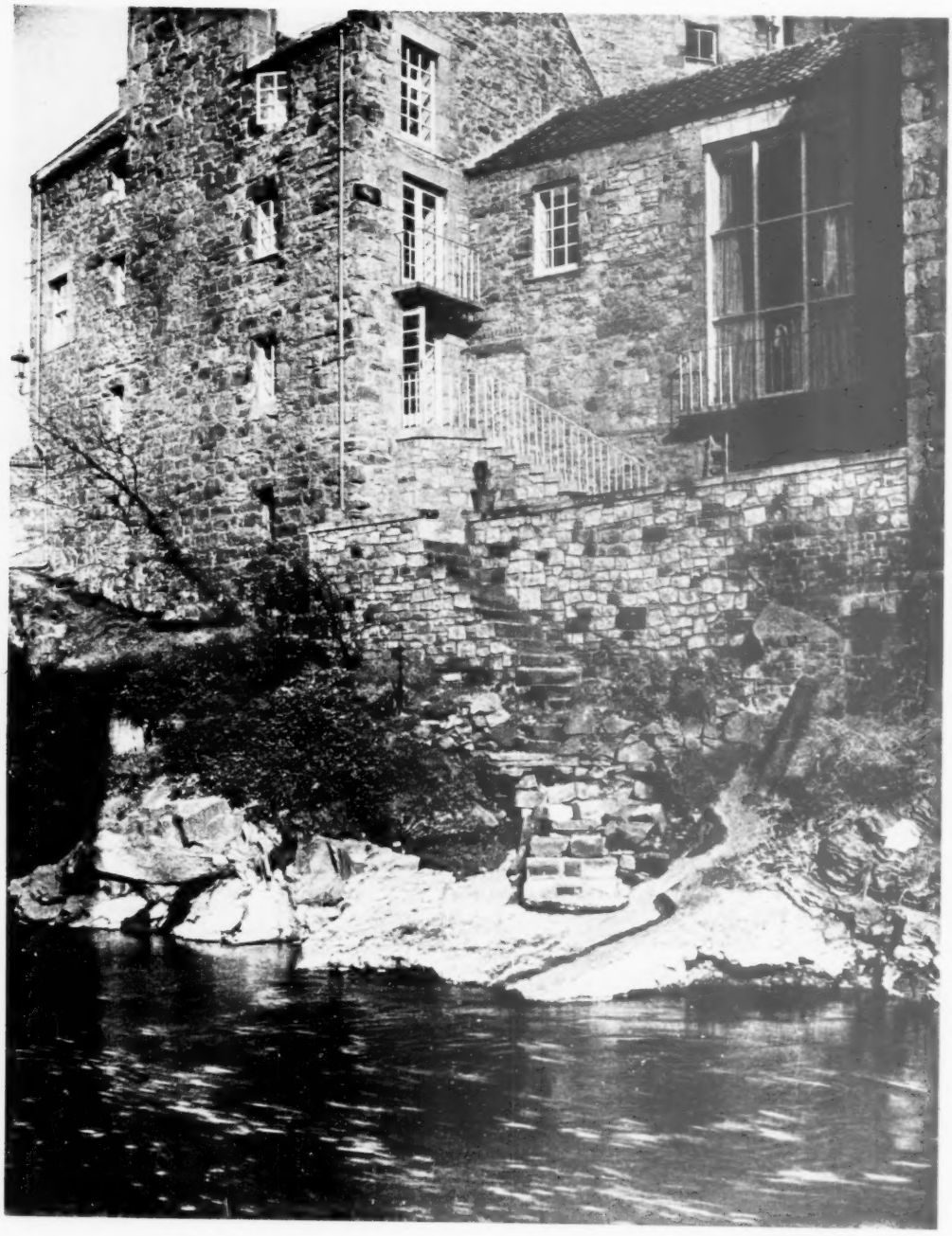
In pursuance of this work the Ministry maintain a staff of Architects and Inspectors of Ancient Monuments, including specialists in the preservation of wood and stone and the assemblage of mediæval pottery, whose work can be inspected if desired.

The Castle and the Palace are naturally the scene of many functions and ceremonies, including garden parties, the Election of Scottish Peers, Investitures and, of course, the annual Festival Tattoo on the Castle Esplanade, in all of which the Ministry has to play its part.



HOUSING MEDAL AWARD, 1952

Broomfield Estate, Birstwith, for Ripon & Pately Bridge, R.D.C.
Architects : Needham Thorpe and White



HOUSE FOR ALEKSANDER ZYW, DEAN

ARCHITECTS: BASIL SPENCE &



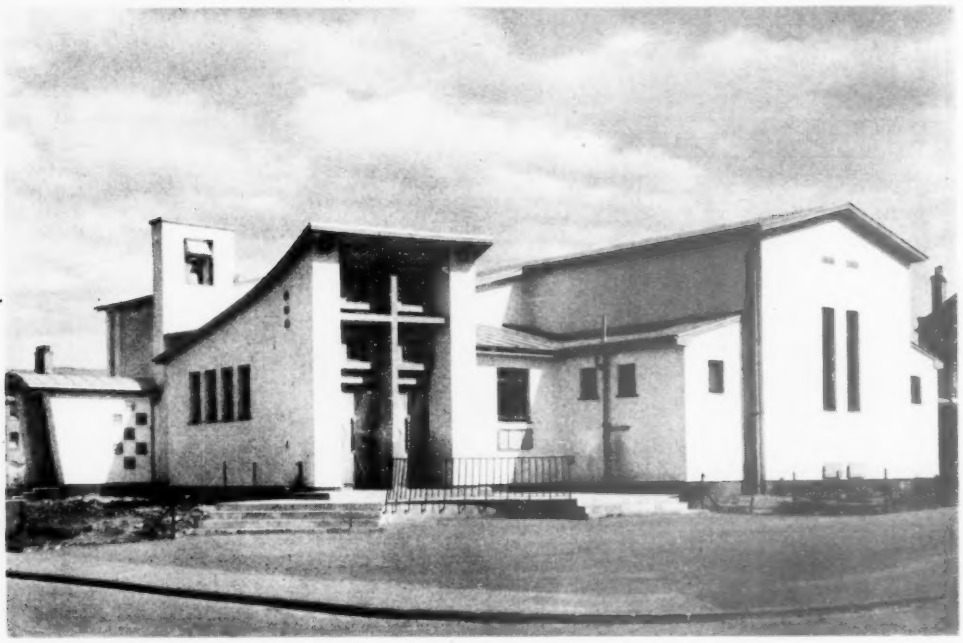
drawings on the left before; and on the right after, conversion

This house at Bell's Brae is old tenement property in the old part of the Dean Village altered and converted for the use of Mr. Zyw, the Artist, to give a four-roomed house with usual Offices and a large Studio. Maintaining, as far as possible, the character of the old masonry building which is integral with the bridge over the river and is built immediately on the river bank. Completed 1948.

VILLAGE
PARTNERS







Hall Church and Manse at West Pilton

THE recently completed Church building in Pennywell Road, Pilton, serves as an indication as to the direction of Contemporary Church Architecture here in Scotland. The Architect working in this post-war world has been given a new conception through the agency of the laconic programme now issued by the Home Board of the Church of Scotland—a new conception brought about by force of circumstances of which drastic economy to permit the meeting of many urgent calls for buildings in days of very much enhanced costs, is but one factor. This reorientation of programme has inevitably changed the function of the building which in turn equally inevitably is reflected in its outward and inward appearance.

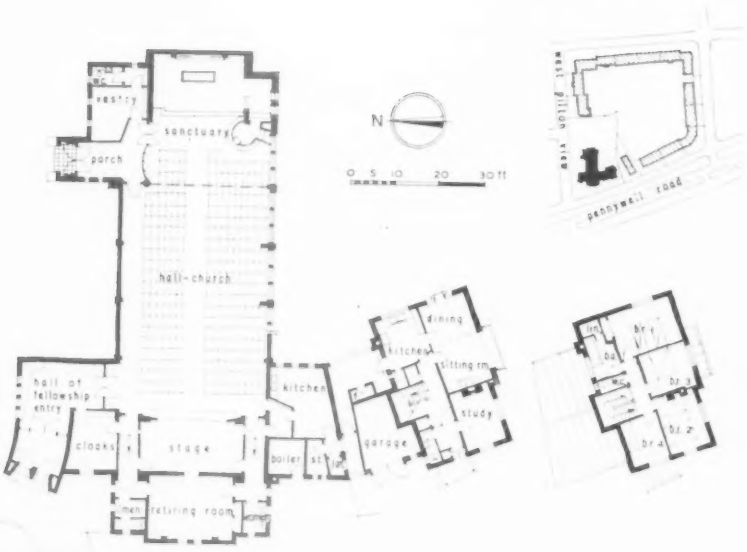
Prior to the outbreak of war, a Church building scheme for this area was at the paper stage of preparation. The programme twelve years ago was on, then, normal Church Extension lines ; and if the war had not intervened, the group would have consisted of a Church, together with a large Hall and Stage, and a smaller Hall which could, on occasions be used to increase the area of the whole. Today's conditions have necessitated a completely new approach. The solution to the problem has been the development of what is now known as the " Hall Church "—one building which can be used as a multi-purpose Hall for six days, and the House of God, with all dignity and amenity possible, on the seventh.

The limitations of dual-purpose accommodation and restricted cost spur the imagination and bring in their train as further factors, simplicity of design and construction, economy in choice of material, and the ruthless elimination of the unnecessary. The available elements of expression are form and colour.

When this building was designed both steel and timber were in particularly short supply, and thus concrete trusses, or frames, expressed outside, and visible within, were selected as the only means of spanning the width of the Hall. These were cast on the newly laid floor, and hoisted when ready, into foundations prepared to receive them. It had been found that every road leading to Pilton was traversed by a railway bridge that prevented road access for the large units which could have been cast with much greater ease in workshop surroundings. The walls between these main supports, being but non-load-bearing screens were designed as thin skins of brick with cement as the finish for protection against, on the outside the elements, and on the inside the enthusiasm of the local youth organization. Oversailing these wall panels and tucked beneath the protecting eaves are the clerestory windows, placed in this high position in the interests of an uninterrupted wall surface within, freedom from accidental breakages, and a good throw across the width of the Hall of general illumination. Minimum building height (the probability of a Badminton Court in the Hall was the consideration which pointed to " proportion.") The flat slope possible with durable metal became a feature through the use of an aluminium alloy which called for light construction.

From the outset there has prevailed a happy condition of mutual sympathy, understanding and co-operation between the Minister and the Architects—between the wishes and visions of the Congregation and the translation of these intentions into a reality that is distilled into a coherent form.

A fundamental issue on which Minister and Architects were severally and therefore jointly of one mind from the outset was that the building should be so planned that the Sanctuary would be set aside as a hallowed climax and under no circumstances be incorporated as part of any Hall-ish function ; any decision so far as this element was concerned of dual function, portable table, or the trickiness of a rising platform had not to be taken. This element, the " East End " was in consequence designed as a Chapel



ARCHITECTS : GORDON & DEY. A.A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I.



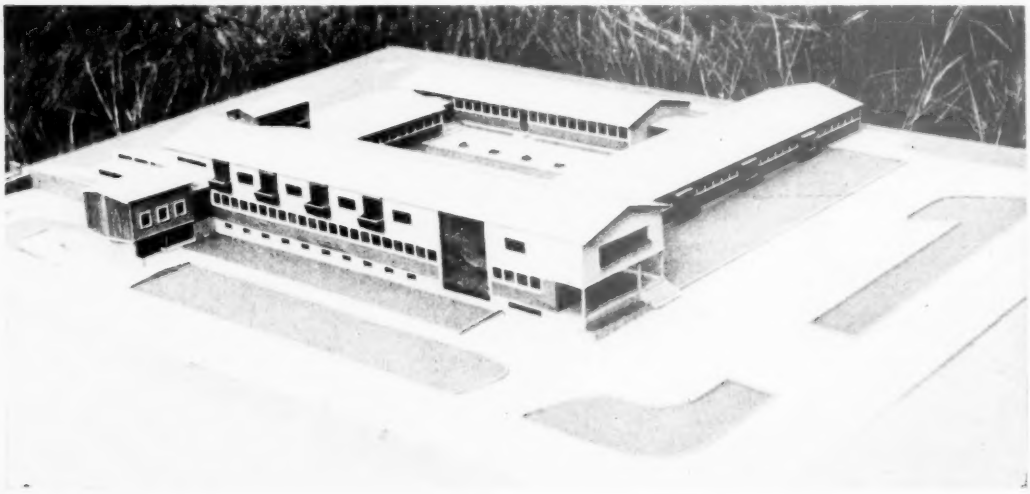
that would, by the action of a large roller shutter, become the Chancel to the Nave area formed by the Hall seating. It is somewhat loftier than the remainder of the scheme ; outside, this gives expression and articulation, while inside it assists in creating an invitation to the mystery of moving Eastwards. This Sanctum Sanctorum has the Vestry accommodation planned en suite, both being approached by a Porch that is buttressed on one side by a belfry, and it is therefore intended that this unit should be used on occasions independently of the Hall for private devotion, small services, weddings and christenings.

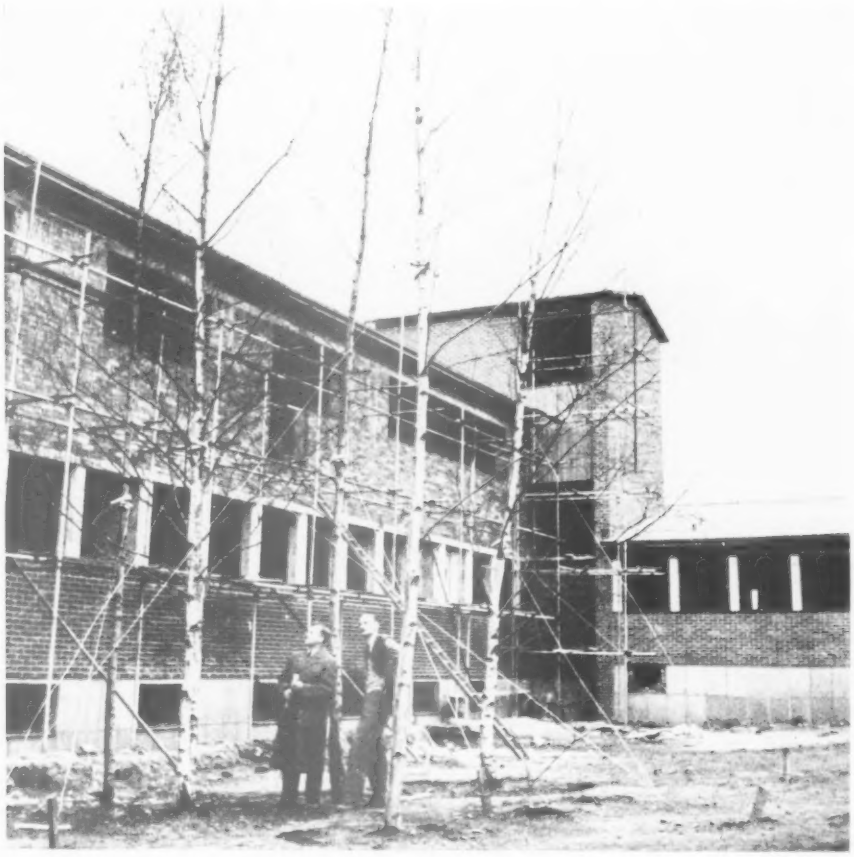
The Communion Table, which is a Table and not a box or block, has been designed on the simplest lines possible. While not unsightly in itself, it will be fully draped on all occasions, and is extendible to double its normal length, the intention being to recreate the old Scots tradition of the Congregation grouping itself around and actually participating in the Celebration at, and not merely in sight of, the Lord's Table. Hanging above from the dark painted ceiling and slightly to either side are two massive wrought iron light fittings, vertical in emphasis and fitted with louvres so that the illumination is directed Eastwards, the Congregational seating area to the West receiving only the reflected, indirect and therefore softer, light. The East wall is dominated by a ten foot high wrought iron Cross, delicate in its members but strongly drawn in its very blackness against the yellow painted wall. This visual climax of the interior was gifted, and the treatment is a contemporary interpretation in metal bars of the traditional Celtic form. Framing the Sanctuary on the North side is a stall for the Minister with a South facing Kneeler, and opposite linked by the Elders' seats is the Pulpit which has a generous sounding board above to circumvent the possible sound trap of the dividing wall between Hall and Sanctuary. This sanctified cell three steps above the general floor level has, as opposed to the clerestory lighting elsewhere, full height natural illumination from a tall vertical South window concealed from normal view by the pier against which occurs the pulpit.

The dominant note in the Hall is the sang-de-boeuf red of the cement-rendered panels below the high window cills. The other colours used have been kept light and neutral as a foil, with the exception of the yellow of the Chancel wall which, for balance and unity, echoes on the Proscenium opening. It will be appreciated that although it is impossible actually to see diametrically opposite walls simultaneously, a sense of continuity is achieved, and whether the chairs be facing East for a Service, or West for a Concert, the dominant tone is the carefully selected yellow. The Stage is adequate for the size and purposes of the premises, and will be used for Choir seating during Services. In this way, the singers, being members of an unrobed Choir can, from the slight elevation of the Platform, give of their best without any degree of unsightliness or disturbance to the Congregation. Below the Stage is adequate provision for the storage of chairs.

" Backstage " grouped in such a way as to provide the maximum flexibility and general usefulness are the Retiring Room, the General Cloakroom, lavatories for both sexes, and with access both from outside, the Hall itself and the Stage, the Kitchen Larders and Stores. It is anticipated that the Retiring Room will serve now as a small Meeting Hall, now as Dressing Rooms (divided by curtains across the centre) now as a Choir Room, or a Room for Sunday School purposes during Morning Service.

The Main Entrance, serving the building as either Church or Hall, is generous enough in scale and treatment to justify the symbolic title of " Hall of Fellowship " that is a heading of the initial directive. The upward sweep of the roofline makes possible the heightened Entrance Door treatment as close as byelaws permit to the crossroads which intersect at the North-West corner of the site. The Porch rides the bisector of the angle formed by these two roads to give an open sense of invitation and drawing in from both approaches. The very form of the structure is a funnel, a vortex directed and focused as a place of transit leading with spatial experiences through the Hall to the Sanctuary and the Cross therein enshrined. This Ultimate is hinted at in the design of the portal, since the double oak doors with decorative pull handles of oak (carved with angels atop and devils below presented by the Sculptor to the Church) overriding the door braces of St. Andrew's Crosses are found beneath the horizontal member of a simple stone Cross.





SCOTTISH HEALTH CENTRE designed by the Architects of the Department of Health for Scotland

SCOTTISH Health Centre at present under construction at Sighthill, Edinburgh, is built in the form of a hollow square, three of the wings being single-storey, the fourth wing two storeys and basement. One single-storey wing will house five medical practitioners working as a group practice. Another single-storey wing will be used by the local health authority for maternity and child welfare. The joint services wing between the two includes X-ray and sterilizing equipment and a physiotherapists' suite. The two-storey wing has administrative offices on the ground floor, also classrooms and studies to be used by the Edinburgh University medical school. There is also a pharmacy and offices for the District Nurses and Health Visitors. On the first floor is a dental wing to be used both by local authority and private dentists.

Progress photograph of courtyard on this page shows water tower at junction of two-storey wing with maternity and child welfare wing. In the foreground are five mature silver birch trees which have been transplanted from a site 20 miles from the Centre.

The picture on p. 714 is a view of the model from north-west, showing administrative and dental wing with lecture room projecting over entrance to maternity and child welfare wing. The large window lights the medical entrance and the main reinforced concrete staircase leading to the dental wing; the projecting windows on the first floor light the dental surgeries.

Edinburgh from the Planning Point of View—I

BY DEREK PLUMSTEAD, A.R.I.B.A.

THE R.I.B.A. Conference at Edinburgh gives an opportunity to see the famous old Georgian developments and compare them with what is being done to-day. In appearance there is no comparison, but in general conception of layout and purpose they offer an interesting historical contrast to those of to-day carried out under a Development Plan. But to understand the old and the problems of to-day in the city one should appreciate the political and social history and its influence upon development. Topography, too, should be studied for its influence upon site problems is at once both a major factor and an asset. This is obvious upon entering the city. Whether one arrives by air, rail, or road, the sharply escarped mountain of Arthur's Seat, set in the midst of the city, the hilly crags of Blackford Hill from where Scott described ". . . mine own romantic town," the glittering (if it's fine) seascape of the Firth of Forth, with its background of the Fifeshire mountains—all can be seen to present a great variety of scene from which much of the city's beauty is derived.

This heritage of nature our forebears have sometimes enhanced and sometimes treated ignobly, according to the circumstances of the times. When quizzing the old, therefore, which we know is not beyond criticism, one should do so with an appreciation of the times which created the city. Nor indeed should one confine one's inspection only to what is fine, for there are terrible problems of slums and overcrowding which is the principal challenge to us all and not least to architects.

Broadly, Edinburgh's architectural history can be described in four periods—pre-1760, from 1760 to about 1840, which is the golden era period, 1840-1918, which is the industrial period, and 1918-1939.

Pre-1760

With notable exceptions such as Leith and the Dean Village almost all of this period is found within the fortified lines of the 3/4 square mile of the old town "set upon a hill."

Existing developments and early maps or illustrations of the old town do not differ greatly. In fact, it bears all the marks of the political and clan system prevailing before the Union of the parliaments. There are still the high tenements (not quite so high as of old), with their crow-stepped gables and turnpike stairs huddled together and pierced with closes, pends and wynds. Tightly packed, they reflect the troublous times of warring factions, of a poverty-stricken countryside of ill-managed farming, unenclosed and almost treeless; of the spartan presbyterianism which dominated life aided by a feudal and aristocratic social structure which precluded communal interest in parliamentary affairs. But this social structure was also responsible for the excellent custom of intimate relations between laird and peasant, between superior and vassal. In the tenements noble and poor lived one above the other and passed each other on the stairs. The famous "gardi loo" sanitary conditions were shared by rich and poor alike.

To-day there is none, however, of the gay, brightly coloured buildings said to have been at one time a prominent feature. Instead, the grey gauntness of "Auld Reekie" displays the effects of the coal age. Partial improvements include a sanitary system still limited to a shared closet (often in a dark, unlit cupboard) by as many as five families, to a communal sink, and to a few wynds widened during the late 19th century, but the architecture remains the same. It presents a difficult problem of social restoration, for it suffered more perhaps from the neglect arising from class separation which followed in the next period than from anything else.

1760 and the Golden Era

This period, according to the historian, resulted from full partnership in England's markets and colonies. It heralded in George Square and the New Town. Its earlier absence and border warfare are doubtless responsible for the lack of any noteworthy architecture equivalent to the early 18-century English heritage. But during the last half of this 18th century Edinburgh burst into the full glory of porticoed terraces, garden squares and streets of generous widths of the New Town. It started suburban expansion which has never ceased, even to-day, 200 years after.

It was the time of Raeburn and the Adam brothers; of a period full of confidence for the future, with a town council launching a venture which is perhaps unique in civic history. Many will ponder upon the possibilities of a revival of such confidence, for it will be appreciated that nothing less will meet the problems of the present and future.

But what of this great public enterprise of 200 years ago? To start with, it was a New Town bold in conception and scale and without precedent. It lies on about 90 acres of ground to the north of the old town, and completely separated from it by a magnificent garden valley. To-day the two towns contrast sharply with one another as they face each other across the valley—the old depicting the informal medieval architecture of Gothic proportions with an unevenness of skyline largely created by greatly varying ground levels, and the new portraying the formal straightness of the classical era both in road layout and, originally, in building silhouette.*

The New Town was the result of an architectural competition won by James Craig and sponsored by Lord Provost Drummond, himself having achieved election six times to the Civic Chair. Starting in 1767, it took 50 years to complete, but some 20-30 years before completion this venture had encouraged many more schemes to enlarge the aim. The architecture carried the influence of Robert Adam, whose Charlotte Square and Register House stand as fine examples of town architecture and of the classical era which it heralded in Scotland.

What surprises, however, even as an individual or "closed" scheme, is the preference James Craig gave George Street, which links the two town squares, as the dominant feature instead of Princes Street which forms the southern flank to the garden valley. The magnificent possibilities of creating a southern front to the old town as the dominant feature seems unexpectedly to have escaped the Georgian planners of that time. Perhaps the competition was too limited to include such wider possibilities. Yet the valley at that time consisted of waste or grazing ground with clusters of buildings which 70 years later were swept away by the advent of the railways with apparent ease. The monotonous row of the original small-scale dwellings lasted until about the middle of the last century, and did no justice to such an alternative conception. Had more noble buildings been erected, comparable with those in George Street, the Victorian and Edwardian builders might have had more respect for Princes Street, and the present chaotic front to the gardens might have been avoided. But what is the town council of to-day doing to remedy this defect or to prevent its continuance?

To the architect planner these Georgian developments present a host of lessons from the sociological pro-

* This is to be seen in Kirkwoods record included in the "Civic Survey and Plan for Edinburgh." (Publishers: Oliver & Boyd.)



Aerofilms Ltd.

View of the New Town area extending Northwards beyond Queens Gardens

blems it created for the old town to traffic questions and site planning upon difficult slopes of the New Town. Was the rigid Renaissance planning of Royal Circus the right solution for such steep slopes or, for that matter, the general layout of the principal streets running steeply against the contours? How does the New Town layout fit the needs of a modern shopping centre and is architectural control the solution to Princes Street? Certainly it offers better building sites than the awkward shapes of many other town centres based upon medieval town patterns.

The major lesson is perhaps the proof that this New Town, with its many extensions, could never have been conceived at all had there been any cramping effects of the twenty-year limit imposed by prevailing Government town-planning circulars. Still less would the limit have permitted the overall town plan which alone could have brought (in the course of the 70 years required to build them) these many schemes into a homogeneous whole with each playing its part either as a residential quarter or commercial and shopping centre.

Despite the uncertainties of a pioneer scheme, the function of Princes Street as a residential street by the turn of the century at the latest, would have been seen to be wrong having regard to the demand the other schemes would create for shops and other communal facilities. At that time the incompleteness of the New Town would have permitted a change of conception. Moreover, the advent of the industrial revolution, already well advanced in other parts of the country, would, through the medium of an overall plan, have brought other clearly foreseeable needs to light. The lesson to be learnt is that bold as these schemes were, they were too individual and lacked the overall co-ordination of the modern development plan. The advisory plans have learnt this lesson and in Plymouth the results are showing that long-term thinking is not only feasible but necessary.

But town building on a noble scale is not the only contribution to the art of architecture in the city. The unusual charm of Anne Street, built by the artist Raeburn, shows a resourcefulness which combines urban with suburban scale in street architecture. From the porticoed dwelling of ample proportions to the modest one, and each with separate gardens of varying sizes in a long terrace, the scheme should satisfy the contestants on garden city densities or on flats versus villas.

1840–1918

This is a seamy period of Edinburgh's history. The story is little different from any other city development of the 19th century. The old town suffered neglect and worsening conditions from the migration of the wealthy to the New Town and by leaving the poorer income groups to maintain old



Aerial view with industrial area in the foreground.

deteriorating tenements.

Overcrowding increased by further sub-division of the flats vacated. Increased building on the few remaining open spaces followed, together with indiscriminate expansion to the south, east and west of poorly conceived working-class flats built in thousands, unrelieved by amenties and often close to railway sidings.

Typical of the dwellings are the back-to-back kind with internal stairs in four-storey tenements. Each flat consists, even to-day, of two rooms with bed recesses and an internal W.C. cupboard in the darkest part. Often such facilities are communal between five families. More than one-third of the population of to-day live in such dwellings; considered as a whole, as it must be in town planning, the problem is too big for this generation alone to solve.

The Royal Mile presents the biggest single problem. As long ago as 1878 R. L. Stevenson remarked upon the industrializing of the Canongate part of the Royal Mile, which is so fatal to life and the amenities in that quarter. "The Palace of Holyrood," he said, "has been left aside in the growth of Edinburgh, and stands grey and silent in a workman's quarter and among breweries and gas works." It still does, yet no one seems willing to tackle such a problem of separating homes from industries seriously! Is the 20-year limit to be the excuse to pass the buck to another generation, meantime allowing commerce to entrench more solidly about the place and thus worsen the chance of even future generations putting right what we fail to do?

1918-1939

There is no development in this period especially different from elsewhere. The principal feature is the spread of housing development inadequately geared to rehousing the slum and overcrowded families. It offers a warning to town planners of how the fulfilment of a town plan can be frustrated. That is one of the dominant conclusions to be found in the post-war Civic Survey, and is of national importance.

This Survey portrays the post-war problems as one of integrated development of all kinds and not of separate conceptions. It shows how, by the outbreak of the second world war, the city had grown, for nearly 200 years, from ¼ sq mile to 50 sq miles in area with a population of nearly half a million people, and having a sea front of nearly 10 miles; of a water supply increased from 300,000 gallons daily to 30 millions to-day. Half this administrative area is shown to have been built up and slightly less than one-third used agriculturally; the community had less than one-sixth of its school playing-field needs; a preponderance of parks like Arthur's Seat (a mountain set in the midst almost of the city), Corstorphine Hill and Braid Hills; half the people were living in sub-standard conditions, including one-third in slums; housing policy of the inter-war years rehoused 116,298 of its inhabitants but only 16 per cent consisted of the overcrowded families. With slums and overcrowding as the major problem this policy must be altered for otherwise no good town plan can ever succeed.

This break, in continued development unguided by a town plan, provided by the war, offered the opportunity to take stock and plan for an entirely new approach. It is the delegates' opportunity to see now, after six years of post-war activity, what this new approach means and compare it with the old.

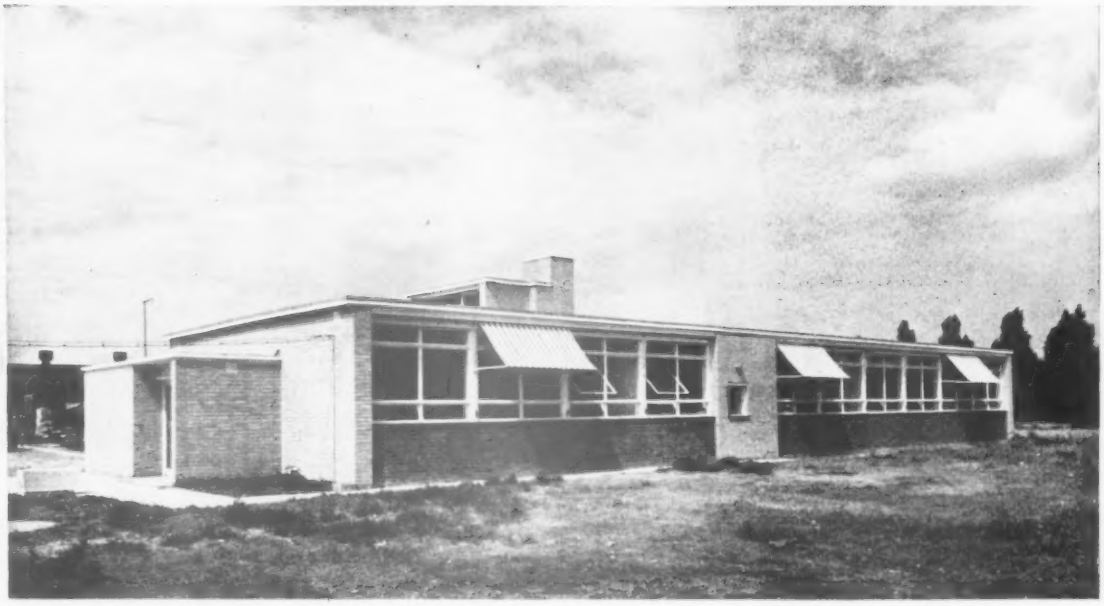
For a study of what is intended there are drawings and models to be seen at the Corporation offices. There the collective effect of individual schemes can be studied. This is important because, as a social art, architecture in the past can be seen to have failed so frequently and it is essential to appreciate how far new schemes will succeed in contrast to the old.

For example, in the span of a year or two schemes are small in number and extent. In the span of many years they are enlarged and bring together a considerable number of people whose needs for communal facilities are greatly in excess of those brought together in the first year or two. If these later developments are not anticipated and the earlier ones not related to them in advance, then both will fail. They will fail socially and architecturally because æsthetically the absence or inadequacy of green recreation spaces, of schools and of shops as part of properly designed town centres, prevents the variety of environment which, despite all the ingenuity in the grouping of buildings, assumes the sameness of housing in the mass.

Moreover, their failure as a social art is confirmed in subsequent years as the ground-floor front rooms of houses change into shop fronts, and as front and back gardens are built upon for workshops, etc., the whole street becomes ugly and untidy.

Nowhere is this fact more apparent than in Edinburgh. Princes Street and many of the other Georgian schemes flanking the main roads show this deterioration. On the other hand, architecture to-day, under the guidance of a development plan such as the Advisory Plan, is not merely a matter of designing buildings to suit individual tastes or of relating them to their immediate environment alone. Initially, architecture includes relating one scheme to another leading to a social and architectural entity and townscape from which kinds of buildings and their environment are derived. That is the reverse of what has happened and is happening to-day in some cases. For example, the University competition scheme for the north side of George Square fails to do this, with dire results which are described in the next article. By contrast its application to the Clermiston housing scheme and others also described later, illustrates the kind of forward looking required.

Next week a second article will appear by Mr. Plumstead, who, with Professor Patrick Abercrombie, prepared the Survey & Plan for Edinburgh published 1949.



View from south with canteen entrance, left

LABORATORY AT ORSETT

for Fina Petroleum Products Ltd.

Architects: HAMMETT & NORTON A.A.R.I.B.A.

THE clients required a Central Laboratory for the purpose of carrying out research and analytical test work on all classes of petroleum products which they sell under the "Fina" trade mark. This building was to form part of the proposed development of their site at Orsett and was to include an extension to their motor repair centre at the front of the site, and a garage for their bulk road transport vehicles. The laboratory canteen is designed to cater for all personnel working on the site.

Plan

The finished building will consist of two separate structures; the link connecting them contains the main entrance to the laboratory and the tank room at first floor level.

The building illustrated is the larger unit and contains the analytical and research laboratory, balance room, dark room, store, clerical offices, lavatories and the canteen. The canteen is provided with a separate entrance so that either the laboratory or canteen can be closed without affecting the other. This unit consists of a "shell" divided by removable "solid" partitions and provision has been made for a future vertical extension of one floor and a horizontal extension to the laboratory.

The smaller unit which has not yet been built will contain the testing laboratory, blending room, store and workshop. It is proposed to build this at right angles to the larger unit (see *A. & B. N.* issue 23 : 8 : 51 p.210) so that both obtain the maximum daylight, and at the same time keeping the beds for the test engines far enough away from the balance room to avoid interference from vibration.

A high standard of day lighting has been obtained primarily by facing the windows of the main laboratory north and south, and secondly by using reflective finishes and colours. It was originally intended to fit external venetian blinds to the windows facing south, but as no suitable material was available for the tapes, ordinary accordion blinds were used. With the blinds correctly adjusted on a sunny day, the minimum daylight factor on the bench tops is 14 per cent.

A similar degree of artificial lighting has been obtained with closely spaced warm white fluorescent tubes.

Construction

In choosing the type of construction to be used the Architects and Engineer were influenced by the following factors:—

1. The licensing authority would not release softwood for shuttering.
2. Shortage of building labour, especially craftsmen, in the area.
3. For reasons of general planning it was important to have no internal columns and to span the roof from wall to wall.
4. Deep beams were not considered desirable, and a flush ceiling to be ideal.
5. The outside appearance to be "light."

The type of construction selected to suit all these requirements, and the one which was considered to be the most economical, consisted of prestressed concrete "planks" forming the lower part of the main beams, with in-situ concrete on top. For the sake of economy, prestressed units of a size already in use on several other buildings were adopted, as this saved the cost of new moulds. Two of these units were used side by side to make up the required beam width of 28in.

The prestressed beams spanned approximately

[Continued on page 721



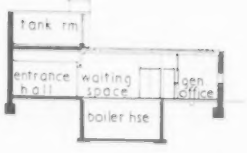
Tank tower and main entrance. Below, the enquiries window in the entrance hall.







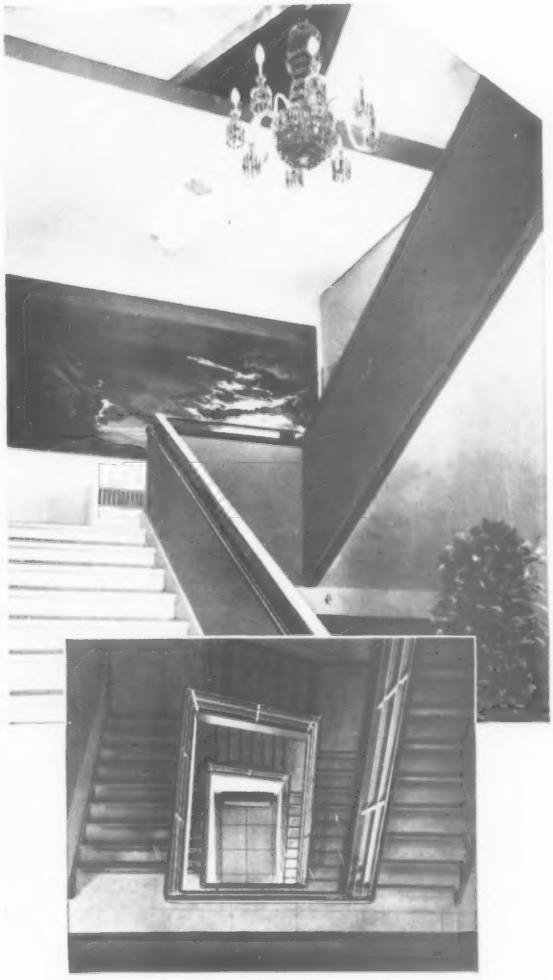




LABORATORY AT ORSETT

[Continued on page 721]

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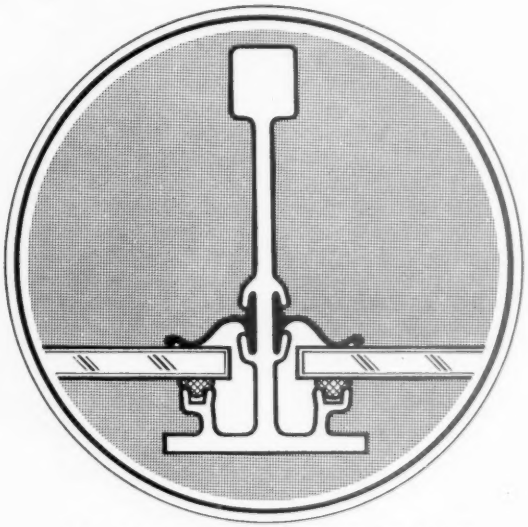
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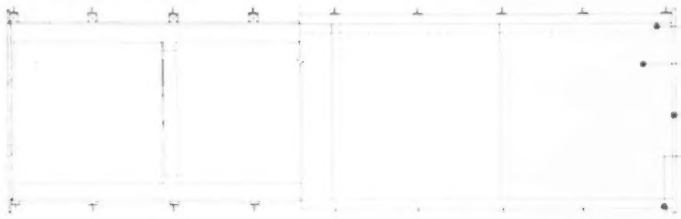


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ELEVATION AT 'A'

ELEVATION AT 'B'



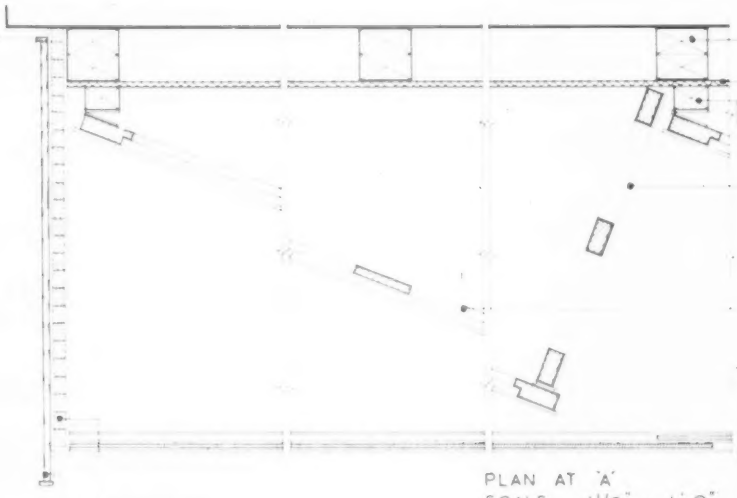
HARDBOARD REFLECTOR

PLATE GLASS SLIDING DOORS

MAHOGANY ENDS

STEEL TEE BRACKETS

SCALE 1" = 4' 0"



2 / 3" x 1½" FRAMING PIECES

HARDBOARD BACKING

2" x 1½"

SMALL PANELS 3'6" x 1'6" FACED WITH BLACK FLOCK PAPER ON 1/8" HARDBOARD ON 2" x 1" FRAMING AND HINGED TO LARGE PANEL

LARGE PANELS 4'7" x 4'0" FACED WITH HARDBOARD PERFORATED WITH 1/8" HOLES AT 1/2" C/CS MOUNTED ON 1/2" HARDBOARD WITH 2" x 1½" BEARERS AND 3" x 1/2" CROSS-BRACING HINGED TO ALLOW FLAT OR ANGLED DISPLAY

1' 10" x 2½" x 2½" STEEL TEE

SLOPING HARDBOARD TOP PAINTED WITH BITUMEN

GUTTER, LEAD LINED

PLAN AT 'A'
SCALE 11/2" = 1' 0"

1" BLOCKBOARD

3/4" MAHOGANY END PANEL

BRONZE SECTION

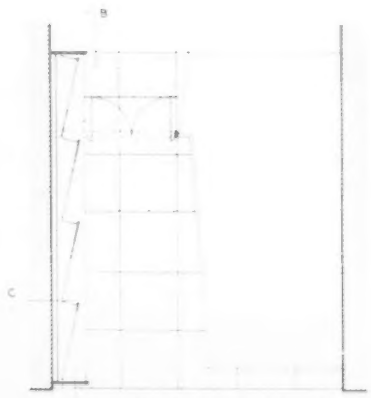
1" BLOCKBOARD

HARDBOARD REFLECTOR

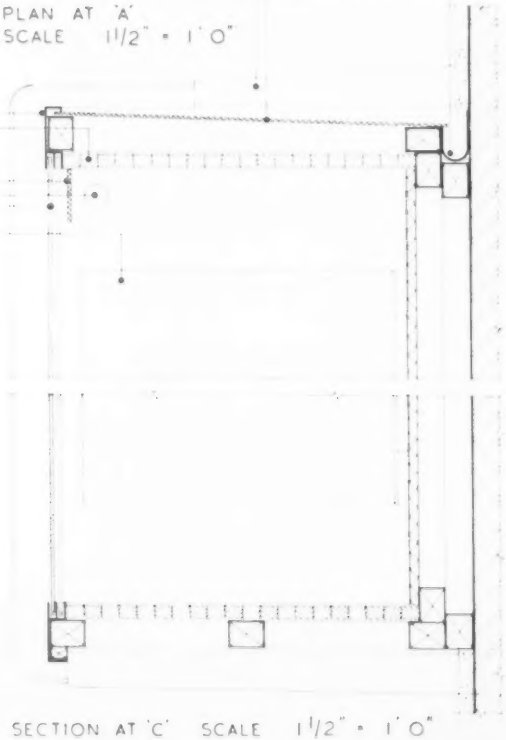
FLUORESCENT LIGHTING STRIP

PLATE GLASS SLIDING DOORS

MOVEABLE DISPLAY PANELS



PLAN OF SHOP FRONT
SCALE 1/8" = 1' 0"



SECTION AT 'C' SCALE 1½" = 1' 0"



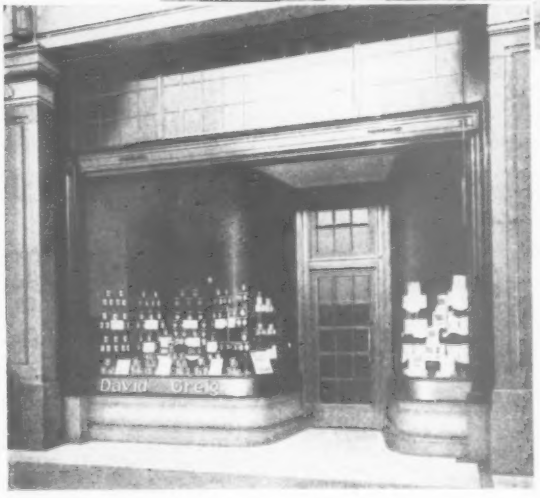
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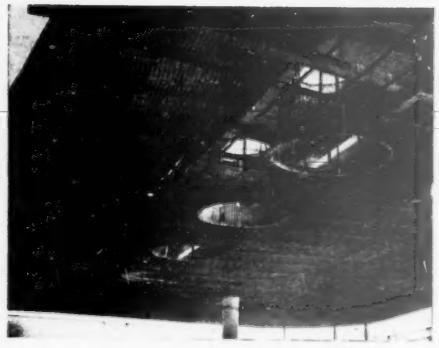
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continued from page 719.]

30ft and precast concrete, trough-shaped units were laid between the beams to form the shuttering for the in-situ concrete which was cast on top. In addition, precast concrete units were laid between the beams to provide a flush ceiling. These units which are finished fairface with bevelled edges, are removable to permit access to the heating installation.

The external columns were precast concrete and were provided with bolts at the top which passed through slots in the prestressed beams. The edge beams connecting these columns were hollow, precast concrete, which were filled with in-situ concrete at the same time as the topping over the troughs and the prestressed planks were cast.

Laboratory Fittings

The laboratory fittings are in gaboon and have been specially designed. Those running along the length of the laboratory have an inverted " L " shaped duct for the services and waste : in this case the services are generally controlled from the front of the fittings. The fronts of the horizontal duct can be removed to permit re-washering, etc. The projecting benches have a central duct for the services. The backs of all the units are removable to allow for access to the services in case of emergency. Small holes are provided in these for valves. The tops in the laboratory are cream coloured tiles set in acid-resisting cement with a reinforced screed laid on asbestos sheets : those in the dark room and balance room are black vitrolite, marble and gaboon respectively. All tops have gaboon lippings.

Services

The services comprise hot and cold water, steam, gas, compressed air and electricity. The fittings are finished in gunmetal and the capstan wheels coloured the appropriate B.S. colour. The electric points are 13 amp. G.P. on ring mains : each point is provided with a red warning light ; a similar warning light is placed beside each drying cupboard.

Finishes

In view of the type of work which it is intended to carry out in the laboratory, special attention has been given to the finishes. Several floor finishes were tested with acids, petrol, oil, benzole and solvents ; " Rhinoflore " was selected from those which met the clients requirements because of its relatively low cost, quietness and comfort to the feet. This flooring has been used everywhere except in the kitchen and lavatories where the floors are tiled.

The plaster and fairface concrete units throughout are painted internally with emulsion paint, which is unaffected by the newness of these materials and chemical fumes. The painting of the woodwork and metalwork internally and externally is in special acid-resisting paints.

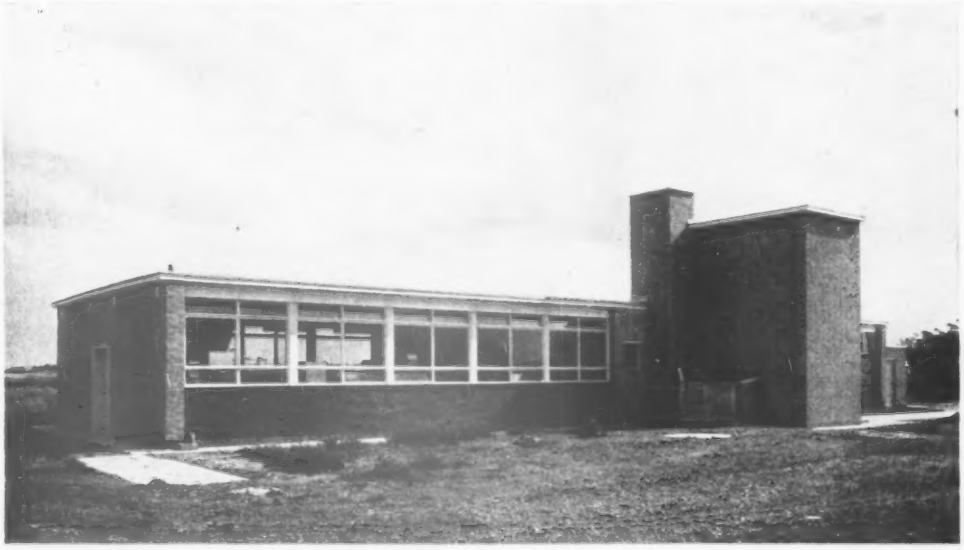
The walls in the kitchen are tiled and those in the lavatories finished with cement glaze.

Bright and cheerful colours have been used against a background of pale beige and broken white : soft colours being used in the offices and more stimulating ones in the laboratory and canteen. Care was taken to ensure that the colours selected would not be affected by fumes.

Heating

The clients stipulated that any form of heating relying on convection was undesirable. Floor heating was impracticable owing to the area of flooring covered by the fittings and the normal type of ceiling heating

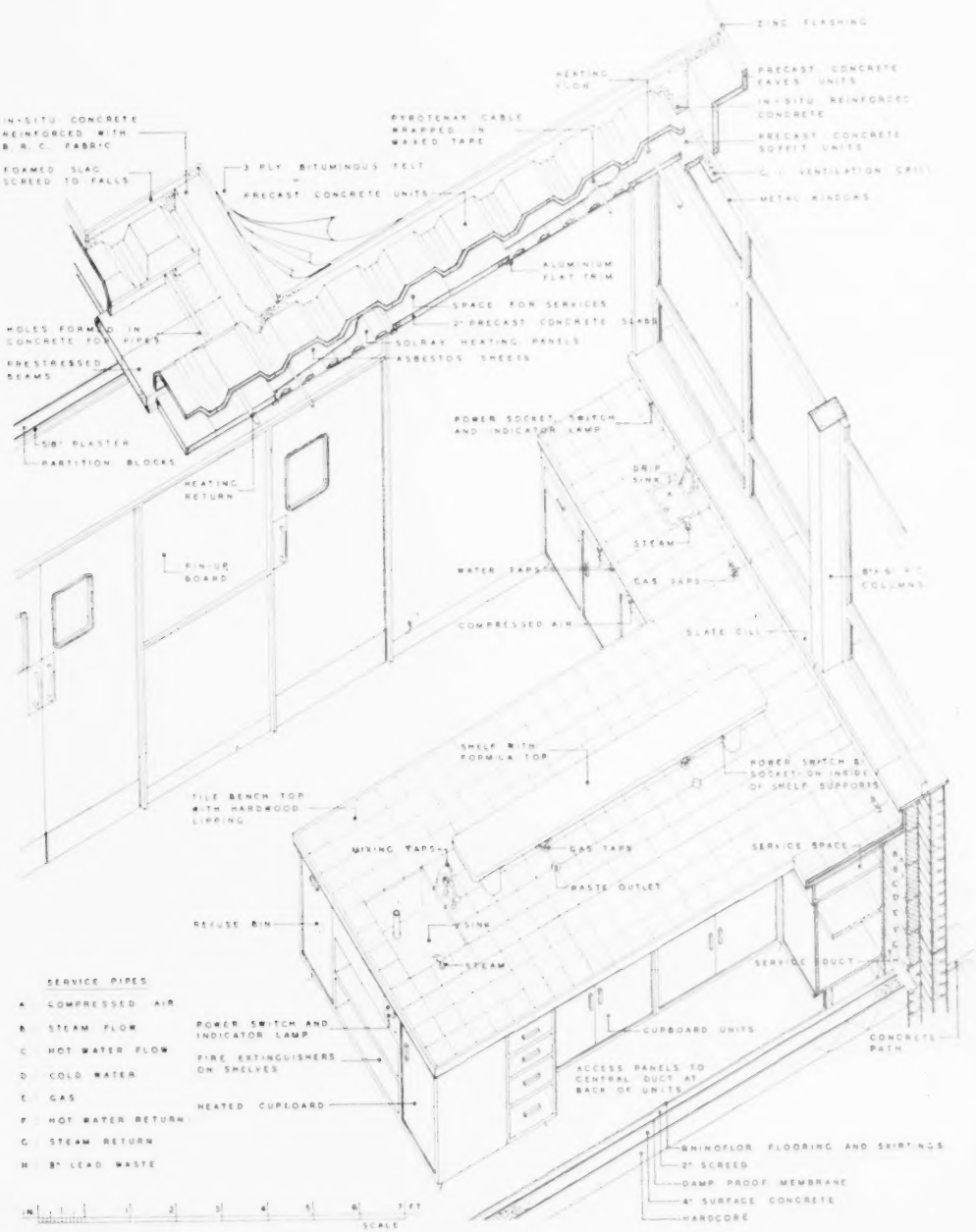
View from north with the laboratory windows on the left.



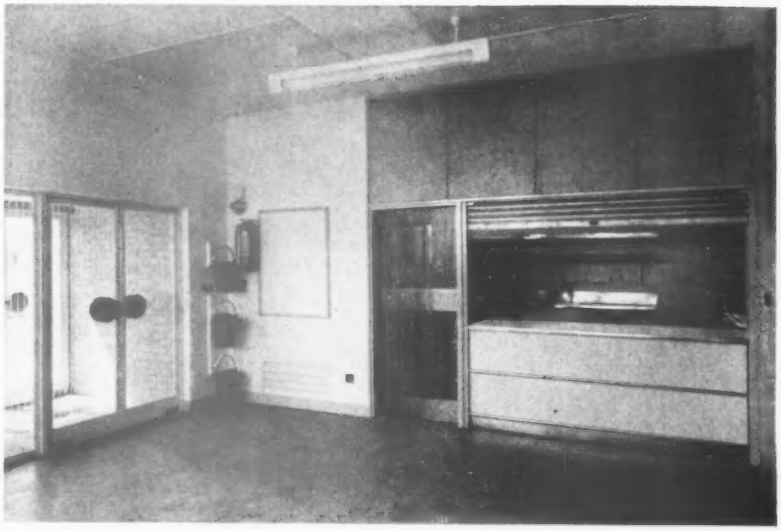
LABORATORY AT ORSETT FOR FINA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS LTD.

could not be used, because of the form of construction. By placing 3ft wide "Solray" heating panels between the prestressed beams alternately with the ceiling units the correct amount of heating surface was obtained. This solution not only satisfied the clients' wishes, but left them free to replan the laboratory should it become necessary, without any alteration being required to the heating installation.

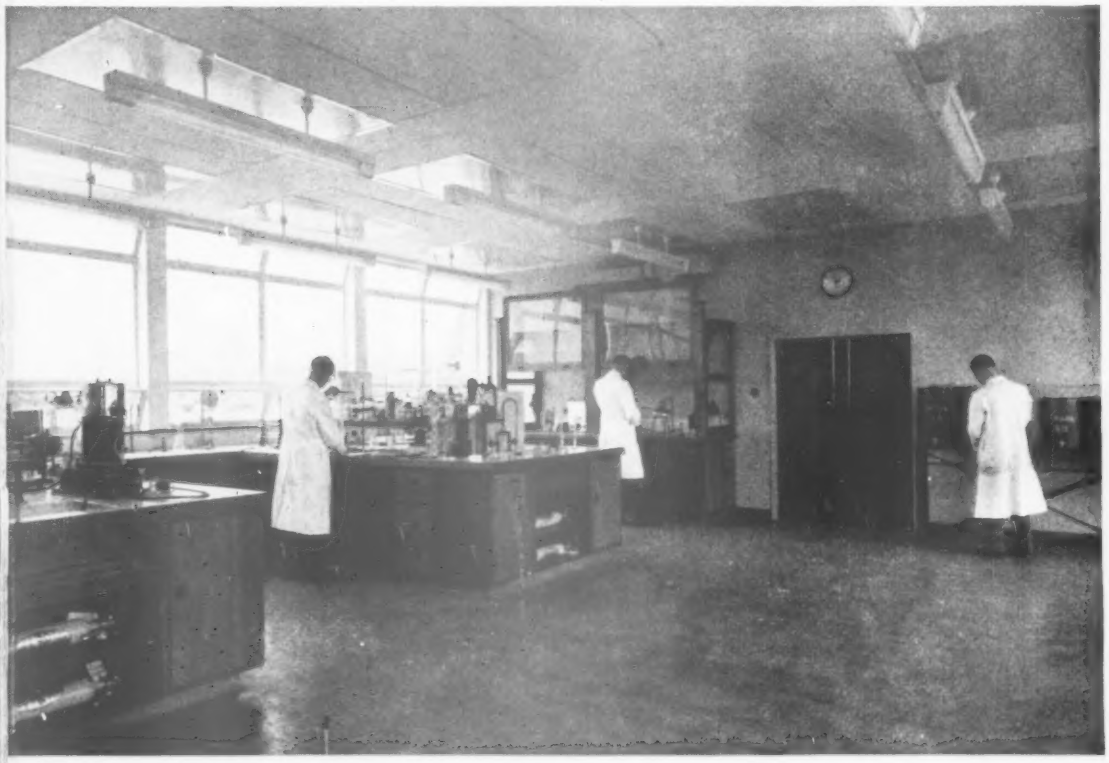
The building was completed in 14 months, one month before the contract date.

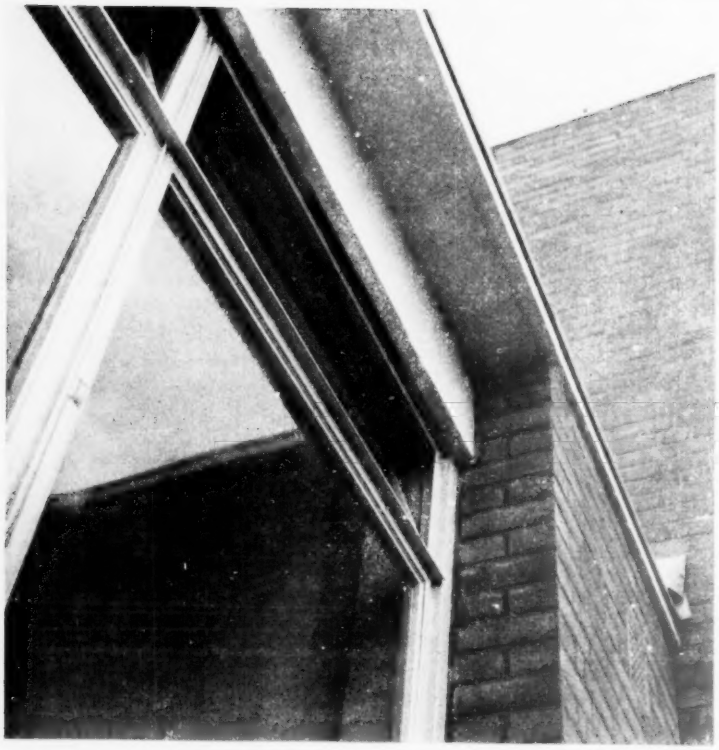


LABORATORY AT ORSETT



Canteen servery with entrance to canteen on the left. The laboratory is shown below and an isometric view of the construction is shown on the opposite page. The specially designed laboratory fittings are in gaboon hardwood. The backs of units can be removed to obtain access to the services in case of emergency.





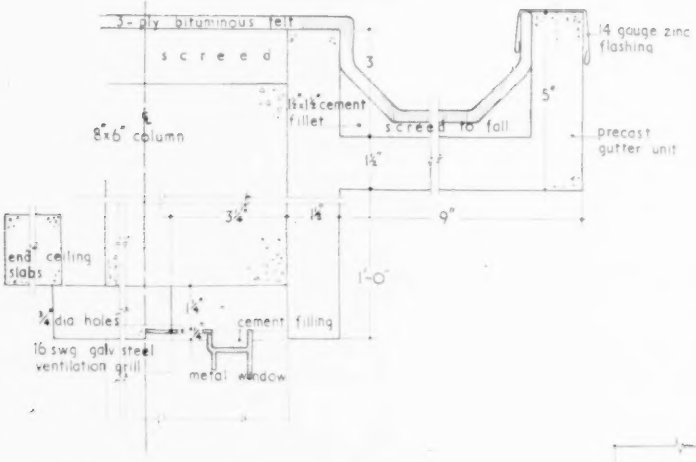
Architects :
HAMMETT & NORTON

Senior Assistant :
M. A. Wolstenholme

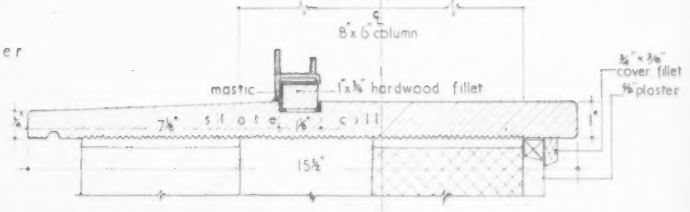
Consulting Engineer :
Felix J. Samuely

General Contractors :
W. W. ROWNEY & Co. Ltd.

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Standard Flat Roofing Co. Ltd.
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J. Avery & Co. Ltd.
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The London Brick Co. Ltd. (Facing), Dunbrik Ltd. (Greystones).
Cement Glaze :
Robb's Cement Enamel Finishes Ltd.
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Parkinsons (Wall Tiling) Ltd.
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Broad & Co. Ltd.
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W. James & Co. Ltd.



¼ F.S. Section through gutter



¼ F.S. Section through sill of continuous window

LABORATORY

AT ORSETT

CONTRACT • NEWS •

Notes below give basic data of contracts open under locality and authority which are in bold type. References indicate: (a) type of work, (b) address for application. Where no town is stated in the address it is the same as the locality given in the heading, (c) deposit, (d) last date for application, (e) last date and time for submission of tenders. Full details of contracts marked ★ are given in the advertisement section.

OPEN

BUILDING

BEDDINGTON AND WALLINGTON B.C. (a) (Contract No. 2) 18 flats, Beddington Corner, Scheme III. (b) Town Clerk, Town Hall, Wallington. (d) June 30.

* * *

BEESTON AND STAPLEFORD U.C. (a) 15 houses and 16 flats in blocks and pairs, Ryecroft Estate, Stapleford. (b) Council's Surveyor, Town Hall, Beeston. (c) 2gns. (e) July 1.

* * *

BLACKPOOL B.C. (a) (Contract 20). 12 houses and 8 flats, Mereside Estate. (b) Borough Surveyor, Municipal Buildings. (d) June 23, with details of similar contracts recently carried out, labour force, plant and technical supervisory staff available and trades to be sub-contracted.

* * *

BUCKINGHAM R.C. (a) 4 houses at Preston Bissett, 8 at Claydon, 6 at Tingewick. (b) Messrs. Scherrer and Hicks, 310, Upper Regent Street, London, W.1. (d) June 21, indicating sites.

* * *

CHEPSTOW R.C. (a) 6 houses, Trelleck Road, Tintern. (b) Messrs. Thomas and Morgan and Partners, 23, Gelliwastad Road, Pontypridd. (c) 3gns. (e) June 23.

* * *

CHERTSEY U.C. (a) (Contract No. 41) 32 houses with outhouses, paths, drainage, etc., Stepney Hill Estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices. (c) 1gn. (e) June 27.

* * *

CHIPPENHAM B.C. (a) 20 houses, London Road site. (b) Borough Surveyor, 10, Market Place. (c) 2gns. (e) June 21.

* * *

CUCKFIELD R.C. (a) (Contract No. 82) 44 dwellings, Hurstpierpoint. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Rural Council Offices, Boltro Road, Haywards Heath. (c) 2gns. (e) July 7.

* * *

CUCKFIELD R.C. (a) (Contract No. 84) 8 dwellings at Sayers Common. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Rural Council Offices, Boltro Road, Haywards Heath. (c) 2gns. (e) July 7.

* * *

DOVER B.C. (a) 1 pair of houses and 1 terrace of 6 houses, Napier Road, Buckland Valley Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, Brook House. (c) 2gns. (e) June 30.

* * *

EASINGWOLD R.C. (a) 6 bungalows at Newton-on-Ouse, 4 houses at Brandsby, 22 houses at Shipton-by-Beningbrough and 20 houses at Helperby. (b) Housing Surveyor, Croft House. (c) 2gns. (e) July 9.

* * *

EAST SUFFOLK C.C. (a) (1) Extensions to Shotley Primary School and (2) extensions to Bramford Secondary School. (b) County Architect, County Hall, Ipswich. (Separate applications.) (c) 2gns each site. (d) June 23. (e) July 18.

* * *

FAREHAM U.C. (a) 20 flats, Fareham Park Estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Westbury Manor. (c) 2gns. (e) July 8.

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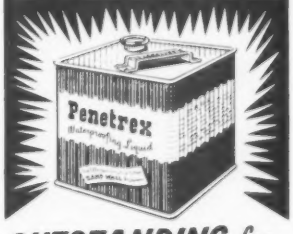
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F. A. WINTERBURN LTD.
HOLBORN STREET, LEEDS, 6. Tel.: 25692

FELIXSTOWE U.C. (a) 36 and 38 houses (in one or two contracts) at Site No. 11, Mill Lane. (b) Council's Clerk, Town Hall.

* * *

FULWOOD U.C. (a) (1) 10 houses, Lulworth Road, (2) 8 houses, Beech Street, and (3) 6 houses, Lythcoe Avenue. (b) Messrs. Lillie and Kirkham, 105, Fishergate, Preston. (c) 2gns. (e) July 19.

* * *

***GILLINGHAM B.C.** (a) 39 houses, Romany Estate. (b) Borough Engineer's Department, Municipal Buildings. (c) 5gns, cheque payable to Corporation. (e) July 28. See page 24.

* * *

GUILDFORD R.C. (a) 28 dwellings and 6 garages, Old Lane, Effingham Junction. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Millmead House. (c) 6gns. (e) July 2.

* * *

GUILDFORD R.C. (a) 6 bungalows, Old Quarry Corner, Hurtmore, with ancillary works. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Millmead House. (c) 2gns. (e) July 2.

* * *

HASLINGDEN B.C. (a) 34 houses and one block of 4 flats, Broadway Estate. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Offices. (c) 2gns. (e) June 23.

* * *

LEAMINGTON SPA B.C. (a) 20 houses, Lillington Estate. (b) Messrs. Rayner and Fedeski, 28, Parade. (c) 2gns. payable to Borough Treasurer. (e) July 8.

* * *

LINCOLN C.C. (PARTS OF KESTEVEN. (a) 1 house and garage and 2 pairs of houses for police at Stonebridge, Grantham. (b) County Architect, County Offices, Sleaford. (e) July 7.

* * *

LONDON—TOTTENHAM B.C. (a) 20 flats, Orchard Place. (b) Borough Engineer, Town Hall, N.15. (c) 2gns. (d) June 23.

* * *

MANSFIELD B.C. (a) Public conveniences at junction of West Gate and Chesterfield Road. (b) Borough Engineer, Carr Bank. (c) 2gns. (e) July 8.

* * *

MONTGOMERYSHIRE C.C. (a) Repairs, alterations, etc., at Y Dolydd, Llanfyllin. (b) Chief Welfare Officer, Welfare Department, County Offices, Welshpool. (c) 2gns. (e) June 30.

* * *

N. IRELAND—BALLYMENA R.C. (a) 10 houses and construction of site works at Tullygrawley. (b) Messrs. Ogilby and McCutcheon, 5, Lombard Street, Belfast. (c) 5gns. (e) July 5.

* * *

N. IRELAND—BELFAST. (a) Primary school at Falls Road. (b) W. H. M'Evoy, Ulster Bank Chambers, 73, May Street. (c) 5gns. (e) June 27.

* * *

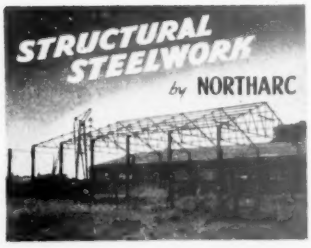
N. IRELAND—ENNISKILLEN R.C. (a) 10 houses with ancillary works and services, Woaghternerry site. (b) Gerald Donnelly, Darling Street. (c) 3gns. (e) July 1.

* * *

NEWCASTLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD. (a) Single-storey brick X-ray department at Normans Riding Hospital, Winlaton. (b) Secretary, "Dunira," Osborne Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2. (d) June 21.

* * *

NEWCASTLE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD. (a) Admission hospital and 2 convalescent villas at St. Nicholas' Hospital, Gosforth. (b) Secretary, "Dunira," Osborne Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 2. (d) June 27.

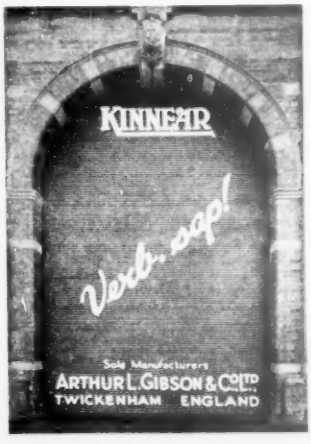


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NORTH COTSWOLD R.C. (a) 14 houses at Chipping Campden (Littleworth Estate) and 12 at Willersesey (Ley Orchard Estate). (b) Messrs. Pemberton and Bateman, 21, Vine Street, Evesham, Worcs. (c) 2gns.

* * *

OSSETT B.C. (a) 40 houses at Manor Lane and 26 houses at Swithenbank. (b) Town Clerk, Town Hall. (e) July 7.

* * *

PLOUGHLEY R.C. (a) 4 pairs of houses with road works, water mains, etc., at Lower Heyford, Oxon. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Waverley House, Bicester. (c) £2. (e) July 2.

* * *

RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE R.C. (a) 1 block of 4 houses at Burnt House Lane, Bransgore. (b) Frank Andrews, 45, High Street, Ringwood. (c) 2gns. (e) June 30.

* * *

RUNCORN R.C. (a) (Scheme No. 1) 18 houses at Moss Farm Lane, Manley, and Town Farm Lane, Norley, and (Scheme No. 2) 12 houses off Sandy Lane, Preston Brook. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Castle Park, Frodsham, via Warrington. (c) 2gns, cheque payable to Council. (e) June 28.

* * *

SALCOMBE U.C. (a) 8 flats, Kingsale Road. (b) Council's Surveyor, Council Offices. (c) 1gn. (e) July 9.

* * *

SCOTLAND — ARGYLLSHIRE. (a) Erection of St. Paul's Episcopal Church at Kinlochleven. (Separate trades). (b) Messrs. Alexander Ross and Son, 28, Queensgate, Inverness. (e) June 30.

* * *

STEVENAGE U.C. (a) 70 houses, Ryecroft Estate. (b) Council's Clerk, Council Offices. (c) £2. (e) July 7.

* * *

SWADLINCOTE U.C. (a) 50 houses, Hartshorne Estate. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Bank House, Midland Road. (c) 2gns. (e) July 5.

* * *

TETTENHALL U.C. (a) (Contract No. 17) 18 dwellings, Woodhouse Estate, Tettenhall Wood. (b) Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices. (c) 3gns. (d) June 30.

* * *

WEST RIDING C.C. (a) Kitchen and dining hall at Settle Girls' High School. (b) County Architect, "Bishopgarth," Westfield Road, Wakefield. (c) 1gn. (e) June 30.

* * *

WEST RIDING C.C. (a) Adaptations at Brougham Street School canteen, Skipton, Silsden Modern School canteen, Steeton School canteen and at Lingerfield School, Scotton. (b) County Architect, "Bishopgarth," Westfield Road, Wakefield. (e) July 7.

* * *

WEST RIDING C.C. (a) Improvements to day nursery at Manor Lane, Shipley. (b) Divisional Architect, Salisbury Buildings, Albert Street, Harrogate. (e) July 11.

* * *

WIGAN B.C. (a) Extensions to Market Hall. (b) Borough Engineer, Municipal Buildings, Library Street. (c) 2gns. (d) June 28. (e) July 12.

* * *

YORK C.C. (a) Conversion of Clifton Holme, Clifton, York, into a children's home. (b) City Architect, Guildhall. (c) £1. (e) June 30.

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PLACED

Notes on contracts placed state locality and authority in bold type with (1) type of work, (2) site, (3) name of contractor and address, (4) amount of tender or estimate. † denotes that work may not start pending final acceptance, or obtaining of licence, or modification of tenders, etc.

BUILDING

CHELTENHAM B.C. (1) 204 one-bedroom flats. (2) Arle and Hesters Way Estates. (3) Wm. Moss and Sons, Ltd., North Circular Road, London, N.W.10. (4) £312,652.

* * *

SHEFFIELD CORPORATION. (1) 376 and 40 houses. (2) Hackenthorpe Estate. (3) Corporation Public Works Department. (4) £526,311 and £40,460.

* * *

NOTTINGHAM CORPORATION. (1) 120 houses. (2) Fernwood Estate. (3) Thomas Bow, 45, Lamartine Street, Nottingham. (4) £176,416. (1) 134 houses. (2) same estate. (3) W. J. Simms, Sons and Cooke, Ltd., Sherwood, Nottingham. (4) £195,234.

* * *

GATESHEAD B.C. (1) Erection of Municipal offices. (3) Cussins (Contractors), Ltd., Gosforth, Northumberland. (4) £99,225.

* * *

STOKE NEWINGTON B.C. (1) 111 flats. (2) Portland Rise Estate. (3) Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons, Ltd., Park Lane, London, W.1. (4) £215,150

* * *

BURY B.C. (1) 130 dwellings. (2) Topping Fold Estate. (3) Middleton and Co. (Blackpool), Ltd., Banks Street Sidings, Blackpool. (4) £181,420.

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OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPOINTMENTS • CONTRACTS • TENDERS

Rate 1/6 per line, minimum 3/- *Close for press 1st post Monday for following Thursday Issue*

APPOINTMENTS

The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through the local office of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, etc., if the applicant is a man aged 18-64 or a woman aged 18-59 inclusive, unless he or she or the employer is excepted from the provisions of The Notification of Vacancies Order 1952.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

ARCHITECT'S DEPT.

VACANCIES for ARCHITECT Grade I (£1,002-£1,143), Grade III (£660-£837 10s) for inspection of buildings of historic and architectural interest and supervising maintenance and repairs. A.R.I.B.A. essential with knowledge of period architecture and restoration work. Appln. form and details from Architect (quote EK/MHB/4) County Hall, S.E.1, to be returned by 12th July. (610.) [6447

COUNTY OF LEICESTER.

SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT, Grade VI-VII, £645-£760. Candidates must be Associate Members of the R.I.B.A., experienced in design and construction of modern buildings and capable of carrying through projects from inception to completion. N.J.C. Service Conditions; medical examination; post pensionable. Consideration given to registered disabled persons.

Apply by 12th July with copies of three recent testimonials, on forms obtainable from County Architect, 123, London Road, Leicester. [6461

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments in the County Architect's Department:—

(a) ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYOR. Salary Grade VIII, £735-£810. Candidates should have passed the Final Examination of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in the Quantities Sub-Division and should have had considerable experience in taking-off in accordance with the Standard Method of Measurement for large building projects.

(b) ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYOR. Salary Grade IV, £530-£575. Candidates should have passed the Intermediate Examination of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in the Quantities Sub-Division and should be capable of taking-off sections of major building works, working-up and the settlement of final accounts.

Application forms and further particulars can be obtained from the County Architect, Wilton House, Parkside Road, Reading, to whom they should be returned completed by noon on Thursday, the 26th June, 1952.

E. R. DAVIES,
Clerk of the Council.

Shire Hall,
Reading.
June, 1952. [6455

HALTEMPRICE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT in the Engineer and Surveyor's Department at a salary in accordance with A.P.T. Grade III (£500-£545) or IV (£530-£575) according to experience. Candidates must have passed the Intermediate Examination of the R.I.B.A.

The successful candidate will be required to work mainly on the Council's Housing Schemes and experience in this type of work will be an advantage, but opportunity will also be given for work on other types of municipal building. The appointment will be subject to the National Conditions of Service and to the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937. The successful candidate will be required to satisfactorily pass a medical examination. The appointment will be terminable by one month's notice on either side.

Applications, stating age, qualifications and experience, and accompanied by copies of three recent testimonials, must reach the undersigned not later than noon on Monday, 30th June, 1952. Canvassing in any form will be deemed a disqualification, and candidates must disclose their relationship to any member of the Council or any Senior Officer of the Council.

A. B. GLASSPOOL,
Clerk of the Council.

Anlaby House,
Anlaby, East Yorks. [6463

APPOINTMENTS—contd.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF GRIMSBY.

BOROUGH ENGINEER & SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

APPOINTMENT OF JUNIOR ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYOR.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of a JUNIOR ASSISTANT QUANTITY SURVEYOR in the Architectural Section of the above Department on Grade A.P.T. I, salary £440 to £485 per annum.

The appointment is terminable by one month's notice on either side and also subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937. The successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

Applications, stating age, qualifications and details of training and experience, together with copies of two recent testimonials, to be delivered to the undersigned not later than first post on Saturday, the 5th July, 1952.

J. V. OLDFIELD,
Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

Municipal Offices,
Town Hall Square,
GRIMSBY.
June, 1952. [6458

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BURY.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of QUANTITY SURVEYOR in the Borough Engineer's Department. Salary up to Grade A.P.T. V (£570-£620) of the National Scales of Salaries according to qualifications.

The appointment is subject to the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and medical examination.

Applications, stating age, details of training, qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of two persons to whom reference may be made, must be received by me not later than the 28th June, 1952.

EDWARD S. SMITH,
TOWN CLERK.

Town Hall,
Bury.
9th June, 1952. [6454

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

ASSISTANT LECTURESHIP IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE.

APPLICANTS, who should be professionally qualified, may obtain full particulars from W. P. Dyson, M.A., 1, Scroope Terrace, Cambridge. Latest date for applications: Saturday, July 5. [6467

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

ARCHITECT'S DEPT. requires LEADER to take charge of specialist section dealing with furniture design, colour schemes, exhibition work, etc., A.R.I.B.A. or specialist qualns. Salary £837 10s-£1,002. Form and particulars from Architect (quote EK/FD/4), County Hall, S.E.1. Closing date 12th July. (591.) [6443

CONTRACTS

BOROUGH OF WORTHING.
BUILDING CONTRACTS.

THE Corporation proposes to maintain a list of approved Building Contractors for housing and educational projects to be carried out and invites applications from suitable firms wishing to be considered for inclusion in such list.

Applicants, who should state the type of work for which they consider themselves best suited, the character and approximate value of any such work carried out post-war and the names of Corporations, public bodies or persons to whom reference may be made, should submit particulars to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall, Worthing, as early as possible and in any case within two weeks of the appearance of this advertisement.

ERNEST G. TOWNSEND,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,
Worthing.
10th June, 1952. [6464

CONTRACTS—contd.

BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM.

BOROUGH ENGINEER & SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

ROMANY ESTATE.

39 TRADITIONAL UNIT-TYPE HOUSES IN PAIRS AND TERRACES.

Proposed Starting Date: August, 1952.

TENDERS are invited for the erection of 39 TRADITIONAL BRICK-BUILT UNIT-TYPE HOUSES of simplified design in pairs and terraces on the Romany Estate, Gillingham.

Persons desirous of tendering may obtain copies of the Bills of Quantities, Specification and Form of Tender and may inspect the drawings and Conditions of Contract at the Borough Engineer's Department during usual office hours.

Applications should be accompanied by a cheque for five guineas (£5 5s) made payable to the Gillingham Corporation. This sum will be refunded on the receipt of a bona fide tender not subsequently withdrawn and on the return of all the documents issued.

The above-mentioned documents will be available after the 7th July, 1952.

Tenders in plain sealed envelopes endorsed "Tender for 39 houses Romany Estate" must be delivered to the undersigned by not later than the first post on the 28th July, 1952.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

FRANK HILL,
Town Clerk.

6th June, 1952.
Municipal Buildings,
Gillingham, Kent. [6457

EDUCATIONAL

I.A.A.S.
FORTHCOMING EXAMINATIONS.

THE Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors will hold examinations at Intermediate and Final grades in the following sections during the week beginning 24th November, 1952:—

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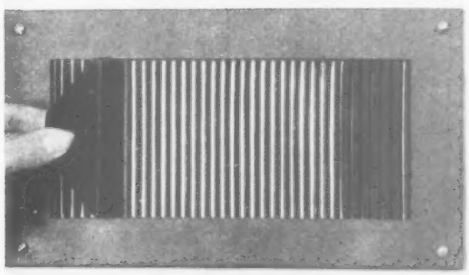
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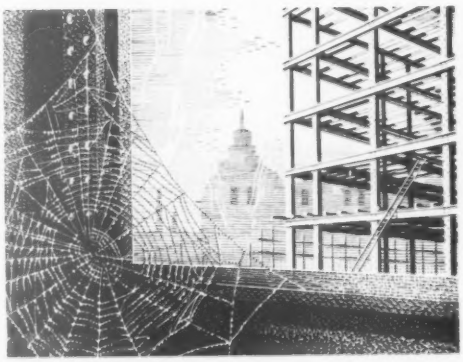
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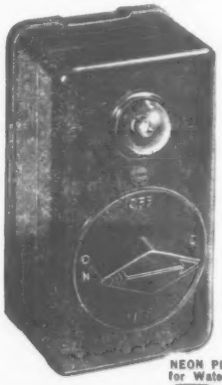
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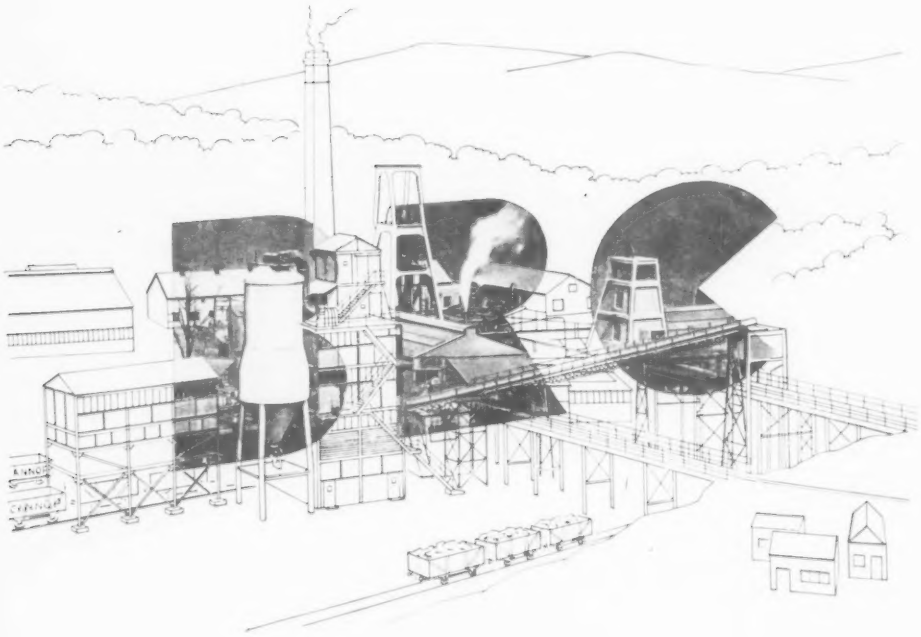
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